

# PLAN of the VILLAGE OF LITCHFIELD and VICINITY.

as laid out A.D. 1720, to 1723, from plan  
annexed to the original deed, and from  
the original surveys. G.C.W. 1845.

Note, The numbers prefixed, or annexed to the names  
denote the Order in which the Lots were chosen.

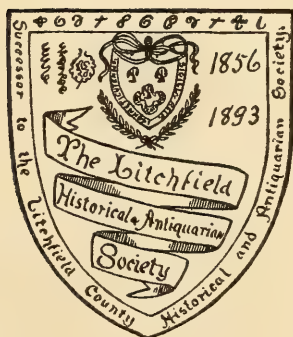








The History  
*of the*  
Town of Litchfield, Connecticut  
1720-1920



COMPILED FOR THE  
LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY  
ALAIN C. WHITE

LITCHFIELD, CONN.  
ENQUIRER  
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To  
GEORGE MORRIS WOODRUFF,  
who, as a citizen of Litchfield  
and as President of the Historical Society,  
preserves the interest  
in the traditions of the Town  
begun by his great-great-uncle,  
JAMES MORRIS,  
and continued by his father,  
GEORGE CATLIN WOODRUFF,  
this book is dedicated  
with admiration and esteem.





## Preface

At a meeting of the Litchfield Historical Society, held on October 6, 1919, Miss Cornelia B. Smith, Miss Esther H. Thompson and Miss Florence E. Ennis were appointed a Committee to prepare a History of Litchfield in connection with the Bi-Centennial celebration planned for August, 1920. On November 10, this Committee asked me to undertake the work for them; and it was found necessary to have the manuscript ready for the printer to begin work in January. At first it appeared that it would be a serious handicap to endeavor to prepare a book of this character in so short a time; but as the work progressed it has proved in some ways a distinct advantage.<sup>1</sup>

In the first place, the nature of the book has more or less shaped itself. There were clearly several things which the time-limit precluded the possibility of attempting; but which otherwise would have required consideration. It was not practicable to undertake what might be called a biographical history. Litchfield has been fortunate in having had, in proportion to its population, a large percentage of men and women, many still living, whose biographies would be of general interest. To collect and classify these was clearly impracticable. It will be found, therefore, that many of our important names, past and present, are mentioned only casually, and in some cases not at all. Consequently, by the necessities of the case, this book is strictly the story of the township, and not the story of the individual inhabitants.

Again, it was impossible to attempt more than a compilation from sources readily at hand. These sources, fortunately, were numerous, taken together astonishingly complete, and, what is especially important, in the main admirably written. Many chapters have written themselves by the simple process of quotation, and the temptation to rewrite such parts, which would have been no gain to the reader, has been removed by the pressure of the work.

The task, therefore, was to compile the story of the town on the foundation afforded by the earlier Histories of George C. Woodruff, 1845, and Payne Kenyon Kilbourne, 1859, with such elaboration as suggested itself, bringing the book more nearly to date. These two Histories are quoted throughout, the name: Woodruff or Kilbourne, followed by the page number, being a sufficient reference. The Statistical Account of Several Towns in the County of Litchfield, by James Morris, while much shorter in its contents, is also of extreme importance because of its early date. It forms pages 85 to 124 of a book called: A Statistical Account of the Towns and Parishes in the State of Connecticut, published by the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, Volume 1, Number 1, New Haven, 1811. It appears, however, that Morris' section was not written until between 1812 and 1814, and that probably it was bound into the volume in 1815, the earlier date being retained on the title page. This little work must always remain the starting point for the historian of Litchfield. Morris, Woodruff and Kil-

bourne laid little stress on the period after the Revolution, which to us now is one of the most interesting parts of the story. Fortunately other writers have supplemented this deficiency.

The work of Dwight C. Kilbourn on the Bench and Bar, 1911, with the many lights it throws upon the Litchfield Law School, and the *Chronicles of a Pioneer School* by E. N. Vanderpoel (Mrs. John A. Vanderpoel), 1903, with its fascinating picture of the life of Litchfield in the days of Miss Pierce's Academy as revealed in the diaries and letters which she has collected; the many graphic little sketches and anecdotes compiled by Rev. George C. Boswell in his *Book of Days*, 1899; Miss Alice T. Bulkeley's *Historic Litchfield*; two works important for tracing Litchfield genealogies, George C. Woodruff's *Residents of Litchfield*, written in 1845, but not published till 1900, and Charles T. Payne's *Litchfield and Morris Inscriptions*, 1905; the many volumes dealing with single families or individuals, such as the splendid Wolcott Memorial, 1881, the two editions of the *Memoirs of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge*, 1858 and 1902, and the *Lyman Beecher Autobiography*, 1866; the records of exercises on particular occasions, including the County Centennial of 1851, and the Presentation of the Litchfield Law School to the Historical Society in 1911; the War literature, comprising the Litchfield County Honor Roll of the Revolution, published in 1912 by the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter, D. A. R., and the two *Histories of the Litchfield County Regiment in the Civil War*, by Theodore F. Vaill, 1868, and Dudley Landon Vaill, 1908; the published Sermons, especially those of a memorial nature; the several works on the County; the publications of the Litchfield County University Club; the books dealing only in part with Litchfield, Hollister's *History of Connecticut*, 1858, on the one hand, or the *Personal Memories of E. D. Mansfield*, 1879, on the other; the collections of County or State Biographies, such as Payne K. Kilbourn's *Litchfield Biographies*, 1851, and the *Leading Citizens of Litchfield County*, 1896; the files of the newspapers which have been published in Litchfield, and of the *Morris Herald* and the *Northfield Parish Paper*; the files of the Litchfield Historical Society, embracing the manuscripts of lectures, bound and unbound selections of letters, scrap-books and other collections, such as the *Record Book of the Seth F. Plumb Post*, No. 80, G. A. R., and the box of Civil War papers left by Dwight C. Kilbourn:—all these and others make up a body of material as rich as the most omnivorous lover of Litchfield's history could desire. There are even novels with their scenes laid in Litchfield and their incidents based on the history of the town and the character of its people, notably Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Poganuc People* and Jennie Gould Lincoln's *An Unwilling Maid*.

This book, then, is only a digest of so much of this material as time has permitted the sifting of, supplemented by contributions from, and the help of, many members of the Litchfield Historical Society and other persons.

I have been fortunate in securing the collaboration, throughout the preparation of the work, of Miss Dorothy Bull, who in particular has written the chapters on the Revolutionary War and on Modern Litchfield; and the assistance of Miss Florence Elizabeth Ennis and Miss Ethel M. Smith. Miss Ennis has written the chapter on the World War and has compiled



REV. STORRS O. SEYMOUR, D.D., LATE PRESIDENT, AND HON. GEORGE M.  
WOODRUFF, PRESIDENT, LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY









CAPTAIN EDGAR B. VAN WINKLE, LATE TREASURER,  
LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



five sections of the Appendix. Miss Smith has prepared the two other sections of the Appendix, and has rendered valuable and constant assistance in seeing the book through the press. To Miss Elizabeth Kenyon Coit, also, are due hearty thanks for aid in preparing a part of the manuscript.

Help in matters of detail has been given by so many persons, that it is impossible to acknowledge all. I wish, however, to thank in particular Hon. George M. Woodruff, President, and Mrs. John A. Vanderpoel, Vice-President and Curator, of the Litchfield Historical Society, for their constant help, encouragement and suggestions in the work; Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick for the contribution of the original reminiscences forming Chapter 22; Mr. Albert M. Turner, Mr. Herman Foster, Miss Edith L. Dickinson, and Mrs. Henry C. Alvord, for materials relating respectively to Northfield, Bantam, Milton, and Morris; Mrs. John Laidlaw Buel (Elizabeth C. Barney Buel), for the loan of three manuscript lectures; Professor Henry S. Munroe and Miss Mary Perkins Quincy, for the use of their Lectures on the Trees of Litchfield; Mr. Frederick K. Morris, for an account of the geological history of the region; Professor James Kip Finch, for information regarding the local topography; Miss Anna W. Richards, for material relating to the Congregational Church; Miss Esther H. Thompson, for reminiscences of former days; Mrs. Dwight C. Kilbourn, for access to her husband's Library; Mr. R. Henry W. Dwight, for an account of the early Mission movement in the County; Miss Cornelia Buxton Smith, Rev. William J. Brewster, Hon. Thomas F. Ryan, Mr. Travis A. Ganung, Mr. George H. Hunt, Mr. Frederick Deming, Mr. George C. Woodruff and the Wolcott and Litchfield Circulating Library Association, for the loan of books and manuscripts; Miss Clarisse C. Deming, Miss Mabel Bishop, Mrs. L. P. Bissell, Mr. Cornelius R. Duffie, and Mrs. George McNeill, for the loan of photographs; the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter, D. A. R., for permission to quote from the Honor Roll of Litchfield County; Mr. Howard W. Carter, Secretary of the Litchfield County University Club, for permission to quote from the publications of the Club; and Miss Mary Alice Hutchins, Assistant Curator of the Litchfield Historical Society, for much help and many valuable suggestions during my researches at the room of the Society. Finally I am indebted to the courtesy of the Litchfield Enquirer, and in particular to the energy and unflagging interest of its superintendent, Mr. S. Carl Fischer, for preparing the work in the limited time available, and to Mr. George C. Woodruff, editor and proprietor, for much assistance in proof-reading.

In quoting directly from older texts, the original spelling has been preserved, no matter how incongruous to the modern eye. The punctuation has, however, sometimes been modified.

Absolute accuracy in a work so hastily compiled is improbable, and notification of any errors that are discovered will be much appreciated. Supplemental material relating to the history of the Town will always be welcomed by the Litchfield Historical Society and all contributions of such material will be filed for future use. As the history of a community is embodied not only in books but in the objects that have played a part in the life of the community, the reader is urged to visit the rooms of the

Society, if this volume awakes in him a desire to understand more fully the spirit of the two centuries here described. Contributions of new objects of historic or scientific interest are always valued and are assured a permanent place in the collections of the Society.

A. C. W.

Litchfield, Conn., May 17, 1920.

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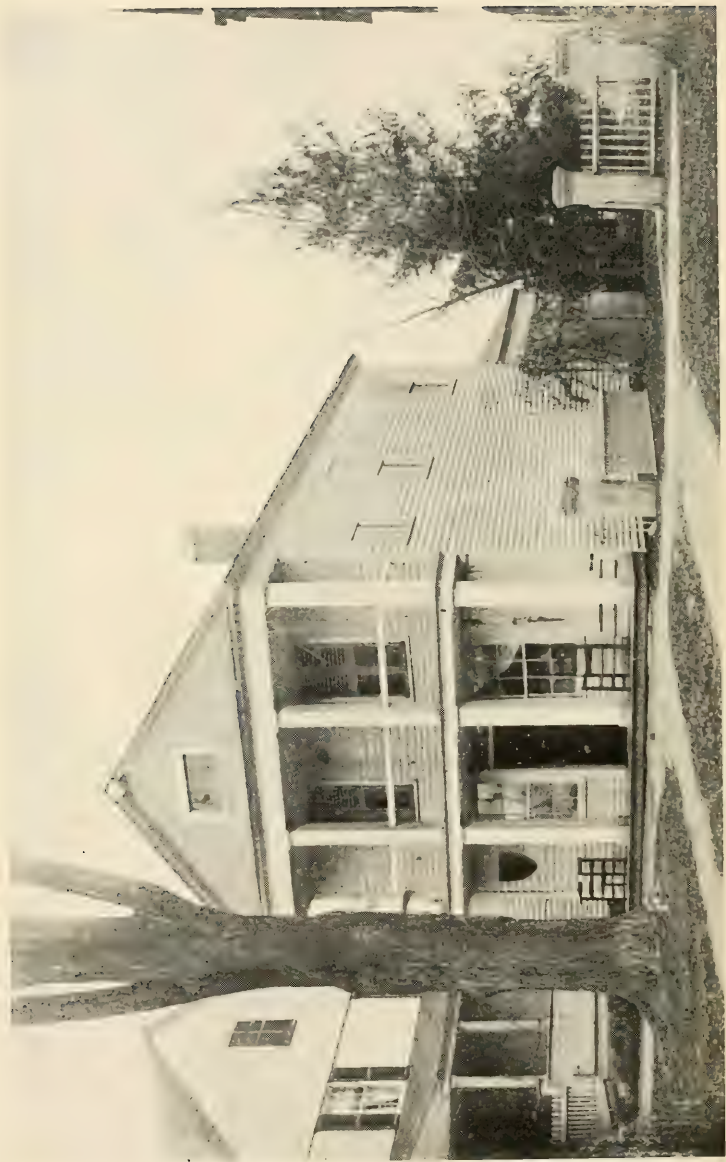


MRS. JOHN A. VANDERPOEL, CURATOR, LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY









FIRST HOME OF THE LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1893-1901

## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

The town of Litchfield is the county-seat of Litchfield County, Connecticut, and is situated among the Litchfield Hills, which form the south-eastern foothills of the Berkshires. The Soldiers' Monument in the Center Park stands in Latitude  $41^{\circ} 44' 48''$  North, Longitude  $73^{\circ} 11' 25''$  West of Greenwich. The exact elevation of the Center above sea-level has, strangely enough, not been accurately determined. The Government survey in 1889 gave an approximate elevation of 1,080 feet, while a later private survey showed 1,113 feet; but as other points on the Government map are decidedly too high, and some on the private map somewhat too low, the discrepancy is still unexplained. It would be a simple matter to determine, as the Engineering classes at Camp Columbia, the summer school of Columbia University, which is located at the southern end of Bantam Lake, have brought a series of very accurate measurements as far as the north end of the Lake.

The highest point in the township is the summit of Mount Tom, with an actual elevation of 1,291 feet; the figure 1,325, given in the Government's topographical map of 1889, is therefore not at all exact.

The original area of the township, which included the present town of Morris, and also a large tract of land set off to the Town of Torrington in 1866, was 71.9 square miles. The present area is 48.6 square miles.

The largest natural sheet of water in Connecticut, Bantam Lake, lies in part in the township. Before the separation of Morris, 1859, it lay entirely in the town limits. The Lake varies about seven feet in surface elevation between low water and flood, namely between 892.5 and 899.7 feet above sea level. At a surface elevation of 893.5 feet, the students of Camp Columbia have determined its area to be 916 acres, its maximum length  $2\frac{3}{8}$  miles and its maximum width  $\frac{7}{8}$  miles, the length of the shore line  $9\frac{1}{3}$  miles, the average depth 16.1 feet, and the capacity 4,800,000,000 gallons.

The name, Litchfield, is supposed without reasonable doubt to be derived from Lichfield, the Cathedral city of Staffordshire, England; but no tradition is preserved as to why the name was given. Much ink has been spent, to little purpose, to explain why the letter T has been added in the name of our town. Usually its insertion is laid to an inaccurate clerk at Hartford; but it is not at all necessary to suppose such an explanation. We shall see, in our quotations from the early records, how variable all spelling

was until after 1750, and this was the case in England as much or nearly as much as in New England. In the English records of the early Seventeenth Century, Litchfield is spelled *Litchfield* very frequently; and there is still a small village of *Litchfield* in the northern part of the county of Hampshire. In Windsor, where so many of our first settlers came from, we find resident about 1700 a certain John Wichfield, whose name was also often spelled Witchfield and gradually took this form exclusively. On the whole it appears that a simple philological cause would explain the change as plausibly as any other. Be that as it may, all the other later towns of the same name in the United States have adopted our spelling, as well as several families of the name.

The Indian name of the region was Bantam, a name whose derivation will be discussed elsewhere. The first explorers called the region by several different names. Sometimes it was the New Plantation, sometimes it was the Western Lands, sometimes the Western Wilderness, and sometimes the Greenwoods. The last name, derived from the great tracts of both pitch-pine and white-pine which were native, is particularly pleasing and we must regret its disappearance locally. The country around New Hartford is still spoken of infrequently by this name, and a trace of the old Greenwoods Turnpike from Hartford to Canaan, through Norfolk, is still preserved in the designation of one of the Norfolk streets.

The geologic history of Litchfield is extremely interesting, as is that of every region where some of its varied pages can still be read by those qualified to do so. We are, however, concerned so urgently with the story of the last two-hundred years, that the hundreds of millions of years preceding must be dismissed in the remainder of this brief introductory chapter. The details given are summarized from an admirable account of this geologic history specially prepared by Frederick K. Morris, of the Department of Geology of Columbia University.

The oldest type of rocks around Litchfield may be that called the Becket Gneiss, which covers a large area to the north, notably in Torrington, Winchester, Norfolk and Colebrook, and to the southwest, west of Mount Tom, into Warren and New Milford. These rocks tell of an old sea into which, in the modern way, rivers poured their muddy waters. This sea covered all the parts where this Gneiss is now found, and doubtless stretched on elsewhere, so that all of our town would have been fine sailing. For untold years mud was deposited by the rivers, and limestone was forming too; but whether the limy matter was made by live organisms or was simply a chemical precipitate cannot be determined. The muds and limes cemented into rock, in level-lying, orderly strata, layer hardening upon layer.

Then began a very slow thrusting and folding and lifting of the earth's crust, which with succeeding ages modified the shore line of



our sea and built up mountains possibly as high as the Rockies now are. No trace of these mountains survives in the shapes of our Litchfield Hills, which shapes are of infinitely more recent origin, as we shall see. The importance to us of these older, vastly greater mountains lies in the fact that their formation, thrusting great masses of rock away from the center of the world, released the pressure which heretofore had kept more or less rigid the deep, hot interior of the earth. This rich material from within, the molten sources of our present granites, together with the eager gases and vapors we associate with volcanoes, came pushing towards the surface ever more insistently and searchingly as the pressure was more and more relieved. They filled the natural crevices between the upthrust rocks, until perhaps some great mass of this upthrust, stratified rock was completely surrounded by the molten matter from below. With nothing to support it, the mass would sink engulfed into the underlying liquid depths, and, for aught now known, the liquids and gases may have reached the surface and built noble volcanoes.

The chief work of the dissolved vapors from within, in the Litchfield region, was not however volcanic. The most volatile substances, water, fluorine, boron, and the rest, were concentrating in the upper chambers of the molten realms below, with an outward pressure quite beyond our conception. Reaching at last the old sedimentary bottom of our ancient sea, now upthrust into mountains, they soaked into the rock as into a sponge, between its beds and its mica flakes, in large and small streaks, until the bedded rock and the molten visitors were blended so inextricably, that to-day one's hand, in many places, may cover a dozen alternations of rock type; while elsewhere long streaks of large-crystaled, glittering rock may be found cutting through the native rock for hundreds or thousands of feet. Such streaks are called Pegmatites, and bring many of the rarer minerals from great depths to within our reach long after their formation.

The so-called Becket Gneiss, then, is a compound of the old sediment first described and of the various igneous or molten infiltrations and saturations to which it was subjected. Rare traces of the original sediment are still found. According to the Connecticut State Geological Survey's Report, 1906, the oldest clear sediment consists of what is called the "Poughquag Quartzite and Schist", which is mapped by Prof. Rice and Dr. Loughlan as surrounding Bantam Lake, except on the West and North-west. There are exposures of it also on the road toward Mount Tom.

Litchfield itself lies upon the next rock to be described. This is the Hartland Schist, which was originally undoubtedly a sediment, partly limestone, partly sandstone, but mostly clay shale. It, too, has undergone profound burial, great heating, and complex injection by igneous fluids. It is more markedly modified than the Poughquag Schist. It is a light colored mica-schist, silvery smooth when fine-grained, crystalline and glittering when the mica

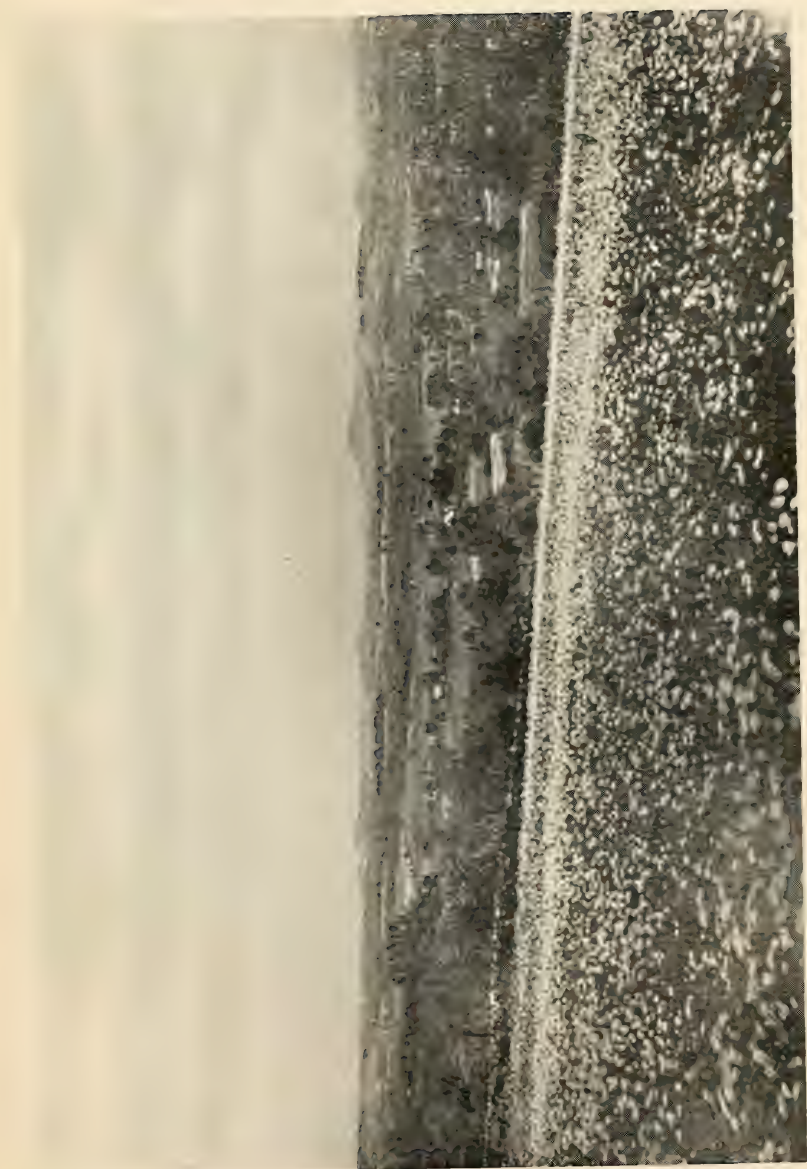
flakes are large. It is full of garnets, none of which are of gem-quality, but many are decidedly handsome. Blue and white blade-like crystals of Kyanite, three inches long, and brown, double-ended crystals of Staurolite, an inch long, are common.

Among the oldest invaders in these original sediments are the dark igneous rocks that once were black masses of basalt or trap. These quite possibly date from an igneous invasion even older than the one described for the Becket Gneiss, an invasion characterized by dark molten rocks instead of by light ones. These black rocks were changed by the squeezing of the earth's crust during the mountain making into the sheeted, streaked, dark, pepper-and-salt rocks now called Amphibolite Gneiss or Schist. Mount Tom and Little Mount Tom are made of it, and there is a patch of it west of the road from Litchfield to East Morris.

North of Mount Prospect lies another great belt of yet another schist, the Berkshire Schist, probably younger than the Becket Gneiss. The problem of the relative ages of the schists is indeed a profoundly difficult one, still far from satisfactory settlement. All the tentative tables that have been published, such as those of the Connecticut State Geological Survey, are liable to revision at any time. All we can say with certainty is that it all happened very long ago, and that the present complex folding and thrusting of these oldest rocks are evidence that the mountains they tell of formed, at one time or at different times, a great area of many ranges. Beyond the old sea which preceded these mountains we are powerless to look.

Now followed a third great series of events, the shifting of shallower seas over the land, the patient downwear of the first great mountains, the later sinkings and re-elevations of the land. The changes came so gradually that perhaps the world from century to century seemed not much less stable than it does to us to-day. The changes, too, involved so vast an area than no one region contains more than a fraction of its record. The rocky mass of Mount Prospect is possibly a witness of this period. It is a dome of molten rock, of a different and, it would appear, a much later type than its neighbors. The hill contains many varieties of igneous rocks, some light, some dark in color, among which are found the half melted fragments of those earlier rocks already described, which the uprising liquid masses broke off and engulfed. Here are the oldest limestones, too, but wholly changed by the hot juices that have attacked them. Here, finally, are the ores which caused so much excitement about 1860; these were among the last ingredients to crystalize and were brought last of all to their present resting places by the molten energies from within. All this may have happened at about the time that the Appalachians were being folded and uplifted, the time also when the leisurely dinosaurs were about to start on their upward evolution.

The next period lies almost wholly outside of the Western Highland. It includes the making of the red sandstones and the red



THE LITCHFIELD HILLS, FROM CHESTNUT HILL









BANTAM LAKE

and dark shales of the Connecticut Valley Lowland. It was the time when the dinosaurs were becoming numerous and large. But for Litchfield the importance of the age lies in the occurrence of a renewed and extended volcanic activity, the last outburst of volcanism known anywhere between New England and the Rocky Mountains. Dark lavas, rich in iron-bearing minerals, were injected into the earth's crust and poured liberally upon its surface from Nova Scotia to Virginia; and some found their way through the crust in our township, a part of this last crop of igneous rocks.

In the following age arose a new series of mountains, of a shape and structure like the present mountains of Utah and Nevada, which must not be confused with those earlier mountains when the schists were made. This renewed splitting and tilting of the earth's crust necessarily left many cracks and zones of crushed stone called faults, into which, as well as into the less frequent earlier cracks, we bore hopefully for artesian water.

Then came two geologic periods, during which the slow attrition of weather and time wore the mountains down again into one great level plain, upon which roamed the last of the dinosaurs. The remarkably even sky-line of our hilltops to-day marks where the level of this plain used to be, for our hilltops are all that is left of the surface of the plain.

During the next age, a slow uplift, with many and long halts, raised the whole plain, enabling the rivers and streams to cut their present deep valleys inch by inch. Our hills, as we know them, are the foundations of the ancient mountains, the remnants of the great plain in which the valleys have been carved by erosion. None of our hills are the direct result of a special upthrust. But they trend north and south exactly as did the mountains of which we see the roots.

There was only one more period in the making of our landscape, the time of the ice-age, that most recent great event in geologic history. A sheet of ice thousands of feet thick moved out over the continent from centers in Canada. The part that crossed Western Connecticut melted upon Long Island. It has been asserted that it was not less than 1,500 feet thick where it passed over New Haven. Such a masterful glacier would freeze into its mass and carry along with it every particle of soil from the land it traversed; it would even attack the bed rock and tear out large and small blocks by simply freezing fast to them and ripping them out of their places as it moved gradually onward. The hills that form Long Island's backbone are the general dumping place of whatever materials, from fine clay to huge boulders, the melting ice still retained at its journey's end.

As the ice melted back from off the country, it deposited sheets and piles of bouldery soil over all the land it had once covered. All the soil of Connecticut, except recent swamps and river bottoms, was laid down by the glacier, or by streams of melting water gushing from the ice, or in lakes formed and held in by dams of ice

across valley outlets. Sometimes the valley outlets were dammed by glacial drift, which remained after the ice had melted; then the lakes were permanent or gradually subsided into swamps. Most conspicuous of the glacial formations are the shoals of boulder clay formed under the ice, much as an overloaded river builds long shoals in its bed. The ice glided over these deposits, smoothing and slicking them, plastering them with fresh material and modeling them into long, oval, gently rising hills. Such hills we call Drumlins, and they are among Nature's most graceful forms. Their long axis lies in the direction in which the ice moved, just as the river-shoal is elongated parallel to the water current. There are many Drumlins about Litchfield, notably on all sides of Bantam Lake, except on the south. Signs of the glacial action are about us on every hand: the stray boulders, like the famous Medicine Rock on Chestnut Hill; the peat swamps, like the one on the land of the Litchfield Water Company, where great deposits have been dumped; the beds of sand or gravel, deposited by the streams within the ice sheet, or as the deltas of streams rushing out of it; Bantam Lake itself, which, with its tributary ponds, covered a much larger tract than it does now, probably including South Plain, Harris Plain and the Little Plain. These and others testify to us constantly of the past history of Litchfield.

We must turn now to the story of the last two-hundred years, but let us not forget as we go about the roads and fields of our township that we can read, in the whale backs of our drumlin hills, in the level sky-line which was once the level plain, in the uplifted edges of bedded rock which are the roots of once mighty mountains, in the shining schists that were once sea-bottom clays and have been as it were through water and fire, and everywhere in the sheets and streaks and greater masses of molten volcanic crystalline rock, an infinitely greater story wherein the only measures of time are the thicknesses of deposited strata, the periods of mountain building, the forever unknowable periods of the patient wearing down again of the mountains by the rivers and waves and weather, periods in which the pulse of years beats too rapidly to be counted and into which our whole two centuries will ultimately merge as an undistinguished instant.



## CHAPTER II.

### THE SETTLEMENT OF LITCHFIELD.

The following statement of the conditions prevailing before 1715 in the region in Connecticut, in which Litchfield is situated, is from Kilbourne, pp. 17-18: "In 1630, about ten years after the landing of the pilgrims on Plymouth Rock, the whole of the territory of the present State of Connecticut was conveyed by the Plymouth Company to Robert, Earl of Warwick. On the 19th of March, 1631, the Earl executed the grant since known as the Old Patent of Connecticut, wherein he transferred the same tract to Viscount Say and Seal, Lord Brooke, John Hampden, John Pym, Sir Richard Saltonstall, and others. In the summer of 1635, the towns of Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor, on the Connecticut River, first began to be settled by emigrants from the vicinity of Boston. Still a year later, the Rev. Thomas Hooker and his congregation made their celebrated journey through the wilderness, from Cambridge, Mass., to Hartford, where they took up their permanent residence. In 1637, the Pequot War was begun and terminated, resulting in the expulsion and almost total annihilation of the most formidable tribe of Indians in the colony.

"The first Constitution adopted by the people of Connecticut bears date, January 15, 1638-9. This continued to form the basis of our colonial government until the arrival of the Charter of Charles II., in 1662, when it was nominally superceded. Alternate troubles with the Dutch and Indians kept the settlers, for many years, in a perpetual state of discipline and alarm. But while the political commotions in the old world sometimes agitated the other American colonies, the people of Connecticut had from the first felt that their civil rights were guaranteed to them beyond the reach of any contingency. The Royal Charter was but a confirmation of privileges which they had long enjoyed. No king-appointed Governor or Council annoyed them by their presence or oppressed them by their acts; but the voters were left to choose their own rulers and enact their own laws. Indeed, the influence of the crown was for a long period scarcely felt in the colony. On the accession of James II., however, in 1685, the whole aspect of affairs was changed. It was soon rumored that His Majesty had determined to revoke all the charters granted by his predecessors. The arrival of Sir Edmund Andros at Boston, in December 1686, bearing a commission as Governor of New England, was an event not calculated to allay the apprehensions of the people of Connecticut. His reputation was

that of a selfish, grasping despot, bent upon enriching himself and immediate friends at the expense of the colonists. At this time, the entire region now known as the County of Litchfield, except a solitary settlement at Woodbury, on its southern frontier, was an unexplored wilderness denominated the *Western Lands*. To save these lands from the control and disposal of Andros, the Legislature granted them to the towns of Hartford and Windsor, at least so much of them as lay east of the Housatonic River. When the usurpations of Andros were over and the Charter had found its way back from the hollow of the oak to the Secretary's office, the Colonial Assembly attempted to resume its title to these lands; but the towns referred to steadfastly resisted all such claims. The quarrel was long kept up, but no acts of hostility were committed until efforts were made to dispose of the tract. Collisions then became frequent. Explorers, agents and surveyors, of one party, were summarily arrested and expelled from the disputed territory by the contestants."

In May 1725 a mob broke open the Jail in Hartford and liberated the prisoners therein. Kilbourne and others have usually assumed that this occurred in connection with the arrests in the Western Lands; Frederick J. Kingsbury, in an address before the Litchfield Historical Society, 1909, attributed the riot to other causes, adding, however, that "while the Litchfield disturbance was not the immediate cause of the jail delivery, the feeling engendered by it had doubtless infused a spirit of disregard for colonial legislation which made the jail delivery more easy than it might otherwise have been."

However this may be, a compromise was presently arrived at between the colony on the one hand and the towns of Hartford and Windsor on the other, by which title to the territory of the Western Lands was divided between the claimants of both parties. The township of Litchfield was included in the share assigned to the towns of Hartford and Windsor. Meanwhile, the towns were not waiting the consent of the colony, but, as we have seen, were proceeding with explorations and settlements on their own responsibility, and were endeavoring to substantiate their claims by purchases of the Indian rights to different parts of the Western Lands.

"As early as the year 1657", (Woodruff, p. 7), "I find certain Indians of the Tuxis or Farmington tribe conveyed to William Lewis and Samuel Steele of Farmington, certain privileges, as appears by the following copy of their deed:

"This witnesseth that we Kapaquamp and Querrimus and Mataneage have sould to William Leawis and Samuel Steele of ffarmington A p sell or a tract of land called Matetucke, that js to say the hill from whence John Standley and John Andrews brought the black lead, and all the land within eight mylle of that hill on every side; to dig; and carry away what they will and to build in jt for ye use of them that labour there; and not otherwise to improve

ye land. In witness whereof wee have hereunto set our hands, and thos Jndians above mentioned must free the purchasers from all claymes by any other Indyans.

Witnes ; John Steel.  
february ye 8th 1657.

William Lewis,  
Samuel Steele.

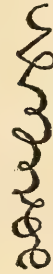
The mark  
febru ye 8th

of Kepaquamp.  
1657.



The mark  
febru ye 8th

of Querrimus.  
1657.



The mark of  
february ye 8

Mataneage.  
1657."



This title was confirmed fifty seven years later, August 11, 1714, by a quit-claim deed to the same parties and their heirs by the Indians of these same tribes then living. The deed is given in full in Woodruff's History, pp. 9-11. It is extremely quaint, but not sufficiently important to the story of Litchfield to reprint here entire. It begins:

"To all christian people to whom these presents shall come, Pethuzso and Taxcronuck with Awowas and ye rest of us ye subscribers, Indians belonging to Tunxses or otherwise ffarmington jn theyer majesties Colony of Connecticut jn New England send greeting", and continues to reconvey the Hill whence the black lead came. Just where this hill known as Mattatuck was has caused a good deal of discussion. Woodruff most plausibly supposed it to be in the southern part of Harwinton, embracing that town and also some portion of Plymouth (then Mattatuck or Waterbury) and Litchfield, possibly what we now know as Northfield and Fluteville. Certain it is that on the 11th of June 1718, the Farmington claimants relinquished whatever rights they held under these two deeds to Hartford and Windsor, and in lieu thereof received one-sixth of the whole township of Litchfield in fee.

Meanwhile Hartford and Windsor had been busy getting a title

of their own to the township. The affairs of the Western Lands, (Kilbourne, p. 19), were "transacted by committees. In 1715, these towns took the initiatory steps towards exploring that portion of the wilderness now embraced within our corporation limits, and purchasing whatever rights the natives possessed to the soil. It would be interesting to know who was the first individual of the Anglo-Saxon race that ever visited the localities so cherished by us all. The earliest record evidence is contained in an entry in the first Book of Records in our Town Clerk's office, which is as follows:

"The Town of Hartford, Dr.

To John Marsh,

May 1715, For 5 days, man and horse, with expenses,	
in viewing the Land at the New Plantation,	£ 2 0 0

The Town of Hartford, Dr.

Jan. 22, 1715-6, To 6 days journey to Woodbury, to	
treat with the Indians about the Western Lands,	
by Thomas Seymour,	£ 1 4 0
To expenses in the journey,	1 14 9
	<hr/>
	£ 2 18 9

The Town of Hartford, Dr.

To Thomas Seymour, Committee,

May 1716, By 2 quarts of Rum,	£ 0 2 6
Expenses at Farmington,	4 9
Expenses at Waterbury,	1 7
Paid Thomas Miner towards the Indian purchase,	7 10 0
Expenses at Woodbury,	2 11 0
Expenses for a Pilot and protection,	1 10 0
Fastening horse-shoes at Waterbury,	2 0
Expenses at Waterbury,	1 8
Expenses to Col. Whiting, for writing 40 deeds,	1 10 0
" to Capt. Cooke for acknowledging 18 deeds,	18 0
" to Ensign Seymour,	1 0 0
" at Arnold's,	1 0 7
" by sending to Windsor,	1 0
August 4, 1718.—Sold 11 lots for	£ 49 10 0
Expenses for writing 20 deeds, to Mr. Fitch,	10 0
" to Capt. Cooke for acknowledging deeds,	7 0
"for making out a way,	2 0 0
at Arnold's,	11 0
" to Thos. Seymour for perambulating north	
line	1 6 4
" at Arnold's,	1 0 4



Feb. 10, 1718.—At a meeting of the Committees, then sold	
16 lots reserved by Marsh for Hartford's part,	37 17 9
At same meeting, paid by John Marsh for expenses,	12 0
At same meeting, loss of money by mistake in acc't.,	3 0
April 14, 1719.—A meeting of the Committees, expenses	6 0
April 27.—At a meeting of the Committees, expenses,	7 0

By the earliest of these entries, we learn that John Marsh was sent out from Hartford to view the lands of the New Plantation, in May 1715. He may, therefore be regarded as emphatically the pioneer explorer of this township".

Dwight C. Kilbourn, in the Connecticut Quarterly, September 1896, has given us a most pleasing account of this memorable trip, which could to-day be made in a morning's ride. "So John Marsh left his wife, Elizabeth Pitkin, and their seven small children, to spy out this land rumored to be so wonderful, and started on what seemed to him a perilous journey, for the Indian lurked behind the forest trees ready for his scalp. He had had in his Hadley birth-place too intimate an acquaintance with their methods to think lightly of their presence, and then there were bears, panthers, and other unpleasant companions likely to greet him. With his horse and flint-lock musket he started,—the first dozen miles through Farmington to Unionville was through a settled country, with good farms and houses, then crossing the Tunxis and entering the wilderness of Burlington, he could only follow over the hills the trails of the hunters and trappers, and wind his way from one summit to another as best he could, through the deep valleys and gorges of Harwinton. Reaching the Mattatuck he forded it a little below the present railroad station at East Litchfield, at the old fording place, and began to climb the steep ascents to Chestnut Hill, and arrived there as the sun was beginning to hide itself behind the mountains beyond. Before him was as beautiful a panorama as mortal eye could rest upon,—the Lakes sparkling in the sunset, and the broad meadows around them with the newly started grass, a living carpet of emerald spreading before him for miles with here and there a fringe of fresh budding trees, all inviting the weary traveler to rest and refresh himself. Descending the hill he crossed the river near South Mill, and pitched his camp for the night near the big spring at the southern end of Litchfield Hill, where, a few years later he chose his home lot.

"All of this fair region which he had seen was called by the Indians 'Bantam', and comprises large portions of the present towns of Litchfield, Morris, Bethlehem, Washington, Warren, and Goshen; and for three days he explored the beautiful, fertile hills and plains. The Indians were friendly, the fish plenty, game abundant, and the spicy perfumes of the opening buds and wild blooming flowers wafted to his old Puritan heart a new sense that softened his soul and let him enjoy for once his natural blessings; instead of encountering dangers and tribulations, his journey had

been one of rest and pleasure. On the fifth day he returned to Hartford. What report he made of his trip is not now known. That he made a favorable report is almost certain, for the next January Thomas Seymour was sent to Woodbury to treat with the Indians about these Western Lands, was gone six days, and succeeded so well in his negotiations that John Minor, the noted magistrate of ancient Woodbury, executed a deed of land, from eleven Indians, covering substantially the township of Litchfield as originally laid out".



This deed is given herewith in full, from Woodruff's History, pp. 13-15. "To all people to whom these presents shall come— Know ye that we CHUSQUNNOAG, CORKSCREW, QUIUMP, MAGNASH, KEHOW, SEPUNKUM, PONI, WONPOSET, SUCKQUNNOKQUEEN, TOWEECUME, MANSUMPANSH, NORKGNOTONCKQUY—Indians natives belonging to the plantation of Potatuck within the colony of Connecticut, for and in consideration of the sum of fifteen pounds money in hand received to our full satisfaction and contentment, have given granted bargained and sold and by these presents do fully freely and absolutely give grant bargain sell and confirm, unto Colo William Whiting, Mr. John Marsh, and Mr. Thomas Seymour, a Committee for the town of Hartford,—Mr. John Eliot, Mr. Daniel Griswold, and Mr. Samuel Rockwell, a Committee for the Town of Windsor, for themselves, and in the behalf of the rest of the Inhabitants of the Towns of Hartford and Windsor,—a certain tract of Land, situate and lying, north of Waterbury bounds, abutting southerly, partly on Waterbury and partly on Woodbury,—from Waterbury River westward cross a part of Waterbury bounds, and cross at the north end of Woodbury bounds to Shepaug River, and so notherly, in the middle of Shepaug River, to the sprains of Shepaug River below Mount Tom, then running up the east branch of Shepaug River, to the place where the said River runs out of Shepaug Pond, from thence to the north end of said Pond, then east to Waterbury River, then southerly as the River runs, to the north end of Waterbury bounds upon the said River; which said Tract of Land thus described, To Have and to Hold, to the said Col. William Whiting, Mr. John Marsh, and Mr. Thomas Seymour, Mr. John Eliot, and Mr. Daniel Griswold, and Mr. Samuel Rockwell, Committees for the Towns of Hartford and Windsor, as aforesaid, in behalf of themselves and the rest of the Inhabitants of said Towns, to them, their heirs and assigns, to use occupy and improve, as their own proper right of Inheritance, for their comfort forever; together with all the privileges, appurtenances and conditions to the same belonging, or in any wise appurtenant. And further, we the said Chusquunnoag, Corkscrew, Quiump, Magnash, Kehow, Sepunkum, Poni, Wonposet, Suckqunockqueen, Toweecume, Mansumpansh, and Norkgnotonckquy, owners and proprietors of the above granted Land, do for ourselves and our heirs, to and with the above said William Whiting, John Marsh,



Thomas Seymor, John Eliot, Daniel Griswold, and Samuel Rockwell, committee as aforesaid, them, their heirs and assigns, covenant and engage, that we have good right and lawful authority, to sell the above granted land,—and further, at the desire and request of the aforesaid committee, and at their own proper cost and charge, will give a more ample deed.



And for a more full confirmation hereof, we have set to our hands and seals, this second day of March, in the second year of his Majesties Reign, Annoq. D. 1715.

Memorandum; before the executing of this instrument, it is to be understood, that the grantors above named have reserved to themselves a piece of ground sufficient for their hunting houses, near a mountain called Mount Tom.


Signed sealed and deliv- } Chusgunnoag  his mark. [L.S.]  
ered in our presence. }


Weroamaug  his mark. Corkscrew  his mark. [L.S.]


Wognacug  his mark. Quiump  his mark. [L.S.]

Tonhocks  his mark. Magnash  his mark. [L.S.]


John Mitchell  
Joseph Minor. Kehow  his mark. [L.S.]

Sepunkum  his mark. [L.S.]

Poni  his mark. [L.S.]

Wonposet  his mark. [L.S.]

Suckgunnockqueen  his mark. [L.S.]

Taweeume  his mark. [L.S.]

Mansumpansh  his mark. [L.S.]

The Indians that subscribed and sealed the above said deed, appeared personally in Woodbury, the day of the date thereof, and acknowledged the said deed to be their free and voluntary act and deed.

Before me JOHN MINOR, Justice."

The Committees, named in this deed, conveyed all their interest in said Lands, to the Towns of Hartford and Windsor, by Deed dated August 29, 1716.

"The title to this Township", continues Woodruff, p. 16, "having been entirely vested in the Towns of Hartford and Windsor, and in



certain inhabitants of Farmington; in 1718, a company was formed for the settlement of the Town. The Township was divided into sixty rights or shares, three of which were reserved for pious uses. Purchasers having been found for the remaining fifty-seven shares, on the twenty-seventh of April, 1719, deeds of conveyance of that date, were made, by committees of the Towns of Hartford and Windsor, and certain inhabitants of Farmington, conveying to the purchasers the whole plantation called Bantam. Exclusive of the three rights reserved for pious uses, the consideration paid for forty-eight of the shares was £229.10.0., in bills of public credit. That paid for seven shares was £31.4.0. The deeds of the above fifty-five shares, are recorded on our Records. How much was paid for the remaining two shares, which were purchased by John Marsh, does not appear. The three home lots, with the divisions belonging thereto, forming one twentieth of the whole plantation, devoted to public purposes, were, one home lot with the divisions and commons thereto pertaining, to the first minister, his heirs forever; one, to the use of the first minister and his successors; and one for the support of the school. As the Township included about 44,800 acres, the cost per acre did not exceed one penny three farthings.

"It was provided in the Deeds, that, 'the Grantees or their sons, should build a tenantable house on each home lot, or on their division, not less than 16 feet square, and personally inhabit them, by the last day of May 1721, and for three years ensuing; and do not lease or dispose of their share for five years hereafter, without consent of Inhabitants or first Planters'.

"The title thus acquired, was immediately after still further confirmed by Act of Assembly in May, 1719, as follows:

"At a General Assembly holden at Hartford, May, A. D. 1719: Upon the petition of Lieut. John Marsh of Hartford, and Deacon John Buel of Lebanon, with many others, praying liberty, under committees appointed by the towns of Hartford and Windsor, to settle a town westward of Farmington, at a place called Bantam:

"This Assembly do grant liberty, and full power, unto the said John Marsh and John Buel and partners settlers, being in the whole fifty-seven in number, to settle a town at said Bantam; the said town to be divided into sixty rights, three whereof to be improved for pious uses in said town. And the other fifty-seven shall be, as soon as may conveniently be, settled upon by the undertakers, or upon their failure, by others that may be admitted. Said town to be in length, east and west, eight miles three quarters and twenty eight rods, and in breadth seven miles and a half, being bounded eastward by Mattatuck River, westward the bigger part upon the most western branch of the Shepaug River, and south by Waterbury bounds and a west line from Waterbury corner unto Shepaug River; said town to be known by the name of Litchfield, and to have the following figure for a brand for their horse kind,





NORTH STREET







SOUTH STREET



viz: 9. And the same power and privileges that other towns in this Colony do enjoy, are hereby granted to said town'.

"A Patent was afterwards granted to these Proprietors, dated May 19, 1724, which may be seen in the Appendix.

"The township was originally divided into sixty home lots of fifteen acres each, as near as could conveniently be done, and any deficiency there might be, was made up to the owner of the deficient lot, elsewhere; and still farther divided from time to time, into Divisions and Pitches of 4, 20, 60, and 100 acres.

"A few individuals commenced the settlement of the town in the year 1720. In the year 1721, a considerable number, chiefly from the towns of Hartford, Windsor and Lebanon, moved on to the tract." Kilbourne says, p. 28, that the first settlers who came in 1720 were Capt. Jacob Griswold, from Windsor, Ezekiel Buck, from Wethersfield, and John Peck, from Hartford.

"The choice of home-lots", continues Woodruff, p. 19, "was decided by lot. The first lot selected was about half a mile south of the Court House, and next to Middle Street or Gallows Lane". All these selections of lots are shown in Plate I, as well as the names of the old streets. The second choice was half a mile still further south; the third three quarters of a mile west of the Court House, the site of the present Elm Ridge. The eleventh choice was the lot thirty rods next west of the County Jail corner, which subsequently the Town voted, was not fit for building a house upon. The Library corner on South Street was the twenty-fifth choice. The County Jail corner on North Street was the thirty third choice. Ten lots were selected on Chestnut Hill, on both sides of the road.

"The home lot of the first minister, was located on the corner of North and East Streets, where now stands the house owned by Miss Edith D. Kingsbury; and the twenty acre division appurtenant thereto, was laid adjoining on the north. The home lot and twenty acre division for the use of the first minister and his successors, adjoining on the north; and the home lot and twenty acre division for the school, adjoining the latter on the north.

"The highway from Bantam river, running westerly through the village, was laid out twenty rods wide, and called Meeting House Street, now called East and West Streets. That now called North Street, twelve rods wide, was called Town Street. That now called South Street, eight rods wide, was called Town Hill Street. That now called Gallows Lane, twenty eight rods wide, was called Middle Street. That now called Lake Street, four rods wide, was called South Griswold Street; and that now called North Lake Street or Griswold Street, eight rods wide, was called North Griswold Street. That now called Prospect Street, twenty rods wide, but soon reduced to seventeen rods, was called North Street.

"The first Church, Court House, and School House stood nearly in the center of Meeting House Street, the Court House about opposite the center of Town Street, the Church east, and the School House west of the Court House".

## CHAPTER III.

### THE INDIANS.

According to DeForest (History of the Indians of Connecticut, 1852), Litchfield County was, before the coming of the white men into the State of Connecticut, 1630-1635, almost a desolate wilderness, so far as human habitation was concerned. He estimates that the Indians in the whole State at that time did not exceed six or seven thousand, and that these were clustered in small groups along the shores of the Sound and along the larger rivers, where the lands were best adapted for corn and where they could depend largely on fishing for their food supply. The occasional raids of the Mohawks from the Hudson River were a further discouragement to the Connecticut tribes from inhabiting the western forests of the State. As the white men arrived in increasing numbers, the Indians were pushed back into the western wilderness, so that probably their numbers in Litchfield County increased very much between 1630 and 1720; but their total numbers in the whole State decreased proportionately much more. Many were killed in the Pequot, Philip's, and the French and Indian wars; while those who withdrew into the western wilderness found the lands much poorer for corn and the fishing greatly inferior.

"At the time of the Litchfield settlement, therefore", says Albert M. Turner of Northfield, "the woods were not by any means full of Indians; and though Litchfield was for some years a true frontier town, the settlement became immediately too strong to fear being overcome by them. All the same the terrors of Philip's war must have been constantly present in the thoughts of the colony", and we shall see presently something of their fears and alarms.

Cothren (History of Ancient Woodbury, 1854), gives by far the most detailed account of the Pootatuck tribe, tracing them back to 1639. Their principal encampment was near the mouth of the Pomperaug River, so named by the English after their sachem, Pomperaug, who died ten or twelve years before the arrival of the first settlers in 1673. The Wyantinucks, of New Milford, he considers also a branch or clan of the Pootatucks, and their sachem in 1720 was Weraumaug, whose name appears in the Litchfield deed of 1716 as a witness. At least three of the signers of that deed seem to have signed earlier grants to Woodbury settlers, though the spelling of the names varies somewhat. Thus Corkscrew in earlier deeds appears to have been called Cocksure.

Probably the Bantams, like the Wyantinucks, were mere outlying fringes of the Pootatucks. The Scatacooks of Kent, who were

the last Indians in the County, did not exist as a tribe until 1735, when they were collected from various scattered remnants by Mauwehu, himself a Pequot and a wanderer.

The chief relics of the Indians to-day are the arrow-heads, which are still turned up occasionally by the plough. Thirty years ago they were very common, though now they are rarely found. An admirable collection of these, from different sources, will be found in the Litchfield Historical Society's rooms, embracing many different shapes and colors. Occasionally the arrow-head was grooved in such a way as to make the arrow rotate, so that its flight would be more direct and its effect on entering the body more deadly. Usually however rotation was provided for by the feathering. Occasionally larger objects, pestles and mortars, spear-heads, axes, bowls and rude knives have been found. A fine collection was unearthed in a grave or deposit by the late Amos C. Benton, when he opened the sand-pit west of his residence on the South Plain. In the autumn of 1834 a piece of 'aboriginal sculpture' was found, of which a long account is given in the *Enquirer* of October 2, 1834, beginning, "A discovery of a singular carved stone image, or bust, representing the head, neck and breast of a human figure, was made a few days since on the Bantam River, about forty or fifty rods above the mill-dam, half a mile east of this village". Kilbourne, p. 66, says that this curious relic is preserved in the Cabinet of Yale College. Since this was written, unfortunately, all trace of the image appears to have been lost. It is not in the Peabody Museum, nor is there any record of its accession.

One other relic of the Indians survives in their signatures to the deeds of their lands. These Kilbourne omitted as being mere scrawls. We have copied them from Woodruff's History. Possibly some at least were individual marks, like a brand. Certainly in some of the Woodbury deeds, Nonnewaug's mark is quite plainly a snowshoe, and perhaps some of those on our deeds have their meaning if we could read them. At any rate, these marks, however rude, were made by the red man himself, and add a distinctive touch to the deeds.

In his Centennial Address, 1851, Judge Church spoke rather bitterly of these deeds, p. 26: "There are other monuments", he said, "to be sure, of a later race of Indians; but they are of the white man's workmanship: the Quit-claim deeds of the Indians' title to their lands! These are found in several of the Towns in the County, and upon the public records, signed with marks uncouth and names unspeakable, and executed with all the solemn mockery of legal forms. These are still referred to as evidence of fair purchase! Our laws have sedulously protected the minor and the married woman from the consequences of their best considered acts; but a deed from an Indian, who knew neither the value of the land he was required to relinquish, nor the amount of the consideration



he was to receive for it, nor the import nor effect of the paper on which he scribbled his mark, has been called a fair purchase!"

Certainly the price of fifteen pounds paid to the Indians for the township of Litchfield does not seem a munificent sum now-a-days; but it can easily be pointed out that the Indian himself had no legal title to the lands he was conveying, that the lands were of no value to him except for hunting and that he distinctly reserved for his own use the best hunting land, that on Mount Tom. Surely, when we recollect the general treatment of the American Indian by the whites, the Litchfield deeds may be considered as a model of fairness! In connection with the Indians' reservation of rights on Mount Tom, it should be explained that this name probably means the Indians' mountain, Tom being the generic name applied by early settlers to any Indian, just as the English soldier is called a Tommy, though for quite a different reason doubtless. Possibly, Tom was an affectionate diminutive of Tomahawk? Certainly, the expression Indian Tom is found not infrequently in old writings. Here is an anecdote from the Monitor, January 30, 1787: "The Indian tribes consider their fondness for strong liquors as a part of their character. A countryman who had dropped from his cart a keg of rum met an Indian whom he asked if he had seen his keg on the road; the Indian laughed in his face, and said: "What a fool are you to ask an Indian such a question; do not you see that I am sober? Had I met with your keg, you would have found it empty on one side of the road, and Indian Tom asleep on the other".

Of direct adventures with the Indians only two authenticated stories are preserved, both by James Morris, in his Statistical Account, pp. 96-97: "In May, Captain Jacob Griswold, being alone in a field, about one mile west of the present court-house, two Indians suddenly rushed upon him from the woods, took him, pinioned his arms and carried him off. They travelled in a northerly direction, and the same day arrived in some part of the township now called Canaan, then a wilderness. The Indians kindled a fire, and after binding their prisoner hand and foot, lay down to sleep. Griswold fortunately disengaging his hands and his feet, while his arms were yet pinioned, seized their guns, and made his escape into the woods. After traveling a small distance, he sat down, and waited till the dawn of day; and although his arms were still pinioned, he carried both the guns. The savages awoke in the morning, and finding their prisoner gone, immediately pursued him; they soon overtook him, and kept in sight of him the greater part of the day, while he was making his way homeward. When they came near, he turned and pointed one of his pieces at them: they then fell back. In this manner he travelled till near sunset; when he reached an eminence in an open field, about one mile north-west of the present court-house. He then discharged one of his guns, which immediately summoned the people to his assistance. The Indians fled, and Griswold safely returned to his family.



"The capture of Griswold made the inhabitants more cautious for awhile; but their fears soon subsided. In the month of August of the year following (1723), Joseph Harris, a respectable inhabitant, was at work in the woods alone, not far from the place where Griswold was taken; and being attacked by a party of Indians, attempted to make his escape. The Indians pursued him; and finding that they could not overtake him, they shot him dead, and scalped him. As Harris did not return, the inhabitants were alarmed, and some search was made for him; but the darkness of the night checked their exertions. The next morning they found his body and gave it a descent burial. Harris was killed near the north end of the plain, where the road turns towards Milton, a little east of a school house, now standing; and for a long time after this plain was called Harris Plain". It is said that the body of Harris was found at the foot of a large elm near the corner of the plain. This elm has long since disappeared; a younger tree now stands alone near the same spot, and bears a small tablet. A monument to Harris was placed in the West Cemetery in 1830 by popular subscription.

"There has been but one instance of murder in this town", wrote Morris further in 1814, p. 98, "since its first settlement, and that was perpetrated by John Jacobs, an Indian, upon another Indian, in the month of February, 1768. The murderer was executed the same year". This murder created so much excitement, that a distinguished divine from Farmington, Timothy Pitkin, was asked to preach a sermon to the condemned man before the execution. This remarkable discourse has been preserved in an old pamphlet, described at length by Dwight C. Kilbourn, (Bench and Bar, 1909, p. 341).

In spite of the fact that the Indians did no serious damage to the inhabitants, beyond the murder of Harris, the possibility of trouble was always present. The condition of Litchfield in its very first years is well described by Kilbourne, p. 37, "Here and there, little openings had been made in the primeval forest, by the axes of the settlers. Forty or fifty log cabins were scattered over the site now occupied by this village and its immediate vicinity. A temporary palisade stood where our court-house now stands, and four others were erected in more remote parts of the town for the protection of the laborers at the clearings: all soon to give place to stronger and more permanent structures. The nearest white settlements were those at New Milford on the south west and at Woodbury on the south, both some fifteen miles distant. An almost unbroken wilderness stretched westward to the Dutch settlements on the Hudson, and northward two hundred and fifty miles to the French villages in Canada. Without mail or newspapers, and with no regular means of communication with their friends in the older towns, they seemed indeed shut out from the world, and dependent on their own little circle for intellectual and social enjoyment. Is

it to be wondered at, that some of the first proprietors should have fled from scenes so uninviting and hazardous, even at the risk of forfeiting the lands they had purchased?

"In the autumn of 1722, a war had broken out between the Province of Massachusetts and the Eastern Indians, and in a short time its direful influences were felt in Connecticut, some of which have already been adverted to. The savages on our borders, many of whom had previously manifested a peaceful and conciliatory spirit, gave evidence that their professions of friendship were not to be relied upon. In the spring of 1723, the Committee of War, in Hartford, sent a military corps to keep garrison at Litchfield. At this time, there were about sixty male adults in the town, a large proportion of whom had families". (See the lists of original proprietors and of first settlers in the Appendix).

"Such was the apprehension of danger from the Indians, during this period, that while one portion of the men were felling the forests, plowing, planting or reaping, others, with their muskets in hand, were stationed in their vicinity to keep guard". We cannot help thinking, however that the picture is a little exaggerated, when Kilbourne adds, "The yells of the Indians at the war-dance, an ominous sound, were heard on the distant hills, and at midnight their signal-fires on Mount Tom lit up the surrounding country with their baleful gleam". Be that as it may, in August 1723 the murder of Harris made the settlers keenly alive to their danger. A meeting was held immediately "to consider of and agree upon some certain places to fortify or make Garrisons for the safety and preservation of the inhabitants". At this meeting it was resolved to build four outlying Forts, to supplement the one on the site of the present court-house. Nearly two years later, at a Town meeting, May 10, 1725, "it was voted and agreed, that there shall forthwith be erected one good and substantial Mount, or place convenient for sentinels to stand in for the better discovering of the enemy and for the safety of said sentinels when upon their watch or ward; that is to say, one Mount at each of the four Forts that were first agreed upon and are already built in said Town, which Mounts shall be built at the Town's cost, by order and at the discretion of such men as the Town shall appoint to oversee and carry on the above said work. At the same meeting, Voted, that Joseph Kilbourn shall take the care of building the Mount at the North Fort, and Samuel Culver shall take the care of building the Mount at the East Fort, and Jacob Griswold at the West Fort, and Joseph Bird at the South Fort".

A letter from John Marsh to Governor Talcott written at this time has happily been preserved. It will be noted that an exchange of letters between Litchfield and Hartford once in twenty months was taken as a matter of course at this time:

"Litchfield, June ye 1, 1725. To ye Hon'ble John Talcott, Gov'r. Sir: Knowing full well ye interest that you, our lawful governor, dothe feel and hath often exprest about our little settlement in this

wilderness, I am moved to write you about our affairs once more. Since I was honored by writing to you aboute twentie months ago, our four fourts or Garresons have been built, all but some mountes for the convenience of Sentinnels. The Garreson at the west our townes men have named fourte Griswold, and the north one fourt Kilbourn because of the godly men who helped most to bild them. The other fourts one at the south end of the town and on Chestnut Hill. These Garresons have done our settlers great good in quietting their fears from the wild Ingians that live in the great woods.

"But we have been so long preserved by God, from much harm, and we praise his nam for it, and take hope for the time to come. Many of our people morne for there old home on the Great River, but they are agreed not to go back.

"About the moundes at the fourtes. I am enstructed by ye select men to make known to you their desires that the Collony shall pay for them.

"With many and true wishes that God will preserve you and his Collony for the working out of his good pleasure, I am yours most truly, John Marsh, Town Clerk".

Of these forts, Morris wrote, p. 94, "Between the years 1720 and 1730, five houses were surrounded with palisadoes. One of these stood on the ground near the present court-house; another about half a mile south; one east, and one west of the centre; and one in South Farms. Soldiers were then stationed here, to guard the inhabitants, both while they were at work in the field, and while they were attending public worship on the Sabbath".

These forts, however, were not considered adequate to protect the settlement during these critical years. "On the 1st of April, 1724", Kilbourne, p. 39, "John Marsh was chosen agent of the town 'to represent their state to the General Assembly concerning the settlement and continuing of their inhabitants in times of war and danger'.

"In May, the subject of the Indian disturbances in this quarter occupied much of the time and attention of the Council of War and of the Legislature. The Indians on the western lands were ordered to repair immediately to their respective places of residence, and not to go into the woods without Englishmen in company with them, 'nor to be seen, contrary to this order, anywhere north of the road leading from Hartford to Farmington, Waterbury, and so on to New Milford'. They were warned to submit to this order on pain of being looked upon as enemies, and treated accordingly. Two hundred men from Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor, were directed to hold themselves in readiness to march at the shortest notice; and sixty more from each of the counties of New Haven, Fairfield and New London, with their proper officers, were called for to supply the garrisons at Litchfield and New Milford, when the soldiers then at those posts should be withdrawn. Friendly Indians were to be



employed in scouting with the English, and twenty pounds each were to be paid for the scalps of the enemy Indians. An effective scout was to be kept marching in the woods north of Litchfield between Simsbury, Westfield and Sackett's Farm, (Sharon). The thirty two men, sent on to scout from Litchfield were directed to be drawn off in ten days". During the Legislative Session of May 1725, Nathaniel Watson, of Windsor, and Matthew Woodruff, of Farmington, each presented a petition for a bounty for having shot an Indian during the preceding summer, while in the King's service at Litchfield.

Among the papers on file in the office of the Secretary of State is the following memorandum made by Governor Talcott (Kilbourne, p. 41).

"A brief account of the minutes of the Council of War Book, of men sent into the service this summer, from May 24, to October 6, 1724:

After the Assembly rose, ten men were sent to Litchfield. till June 24.

June 25—Four men sent to Litchfield from Hartford.

June 30—Major Burr sent ten men, and Major Eles ten men, to New Milford and Litchfield.

July 27—Six men sent from Woodbury to keep garrison at Shepaug twenty days.

August 18—Fifteen men were improved in scouts under the command of Sergt. Joseph Churchill, at Litchfield and New Milford; have orders sent to the 5th instant of October to draw off and disband.

October, 1724.

JOSEPH TALCOTT."

At the General Assembly, in May 1725, Joseph Churchill, of Wethersfield, mentioned in the preceding paragraph, presented a Memorial, stating that he had served for fifteen weeks at Litchfield, but had received no pay for Sundays. He therefore asked pay for fifteen Sundays. This was granted in the Lower House, but lost in the Council.

"By our Town Records it appears", (Kilbourne, p. 42), "that on the 15th of October, 1724, a Memorial to the General Assembly was agreed upon and ordered to be signed by John Marsh, in the name of the town, and sent to New Haven by the hand of Timothy Collins, to be delivered to the Court. This Memorial is not on record in Litchfield, but is fortunately preserved among the files in the Secretary's office in Hartford. It is an impressive and interesting document, and eloquently details the trials and perils encountered by our fathers:

"A Memorial of the distressed state of the inhabitants of the Town of Litchfield, which we humbly lay before the Honorable General Assembly now sitting in New Haven:

May it please your Honors to hear us in a few things. Inasmuch as there was a prospect of the war's moving into these parts the last year, the Governor and Council—moved with paternal regards for our safety—ordered Garrisons forthwith to be erected in this town. In obedience thereto, laying



aside all other business, we engaged in that work, and built our fortifications without any assistance from abroad, whereby our seed-time in some measure was lost, and consequently our harvest this year small. The seat of the war in this colony (in the whole course of the concluding summer), being in this town, notwithstanding the special care taken of us by the Honorable Committee of War, and the great expense the colony has been at for our security, yet the circumstances of our town remain very difficult in several respects. The danger and charge of laboring abroad is so great, that a considerable part of our improvable lands remote from the town lie unimproved, whereby we are greatly impoverished, so that many of our inhabitants are rendered incapable of paying their taxes which have been granted for the settling and maintaining of our ministry and building a meeting-house, which we are yet destitute of, whereby that great work seems to be under a fatal necessity of being neglected.

Many of our Inhabitants are drawn off, which renders us very weak and unable to defend ourselves from the common enemy, and the duties of Watching and Warding are become very heavy.

By reason of the late war, our lands are become of little value, so that they who are desirous of selling, to subsist their families and defray public charges which necessarily arise in a new place, are unable to do it. Your humble petitioners therefore pray this Honorable Court would be pleased to take thought of our difficult circumstances, and spread the garment of pity over our present distress, which moves us to beg relief in several respects:

1. That our deserting proprietors, who do not personally inhabit, may be ordered to settle themselves or others upon their Rights, which will not only be an encouragement to those that tarry, and render our burden more tolerable, but prevent much charge to the colony.

2. That our Inhabitants may be under some wages, that they may be capable of subsisting in the town, and not labor under the difficulty of war and famine together.

3. That some addition be made to the price of billeting soldiers, especially for this town, where the provision, at least a greater part of it, hath been fetched near twenty miles for the billeting of soldiers this year.

4. That some act be made concerning Fortified Houses, that the people may have free liberty of the use of said Houses as there is occasion.

5. That there may be an explanation of the Act of the Governor and Council made the last summer, which obliges every proprietor of a home lot to attend the military, by himself or some other person in his room, as the law directs, in case a person hath fifty pounds in the public list; for many of our deserters have put off their home lots and some of their lands, so that many of them have not a whole Right or a home lot in this place, and so escape execution upon that act.

As to the Indians hunting in our woods, we submit to your Honors' ordering that affair as in your wisdom you shall think best for us.

All of which we humbly recommend to the consideration of this Honorable Assembly, and ourselves your servants desiring Heaven's blessing to rest upon you, and that God Almighty may be with you, to direct in all

weighty affairs which are before you, and make you rich blessings in your day and generation, your humble petitioners shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

JOHN MARSH,

In the name and by desire of the rest".

Another petition was presented by John Marsh and others at the next Legislative Session, May 1725; this and the Resolutions adopted as a result by the General Assembly are given at length by Kilbourne, pp. 43-46. It will be sufficient to reprint here the following Resolutions, passed by the General Assembly at the spring session of 1725.

"This Assembly, taking into consideration the difficulties of the Town of Litchfield in this time of trouble with the Indians, and that sundry persons claiming Rights in said Town are not resident in the same, have therefore Resolved:

1. That each person claiming a Right or Rights in said Town, that shall not be constantly residing in said Town, shall pay and forfeit, towards defraying the public charges in defending the same, the sum of thirty pounds per annum for each Right he claims, and so *pro rata* for any time he shall be absent without allowance from Capt. Marsh, John Buel and Nathaniel Hosford, or any two of them; and by the same rule of proportion for part Rights. And if any such claimer shall neglect payment of the said forfeiture at the time and to the Committee hereafter appointed in this Act, the said Committee are hereby fully empowered to sell so much of the lands in Litchfield claimed by such non-resident person, as will answer the sum so forfeited; and all sales and alienations made of such Lands by the Committee, shall be good for the holding the same to the grantees and their heirs forever. And this Assembly appoint Major Roger Wolcott, Capt. Nathaniel Stanley, Esq., and Mr. Thomas Seymour, a Committee to take account of all forfeitures that shall arise by force of this act, and upon the non-payment of the same, to make sale of the Lands as aforesaid.

And it is further ordered, That all such forfeitures shall be paid to the said Committee at the State House in Hartford, on the first Monday in June, which will be in the year 1726; and the said Committee are to deliver all such sum or sums as they shall receive by force of this Act, unto the Treasurer of this Colony, taking his receipt for the same—the said Committee to make their accounts with the Assembly in October, provided nevertheless that the Right of Joseph Harris is saved from any forfeiture by force of this Act. And it is further provided, that if any such claimer shall keep an able-bodied soldier in said Litchfield, who shall attend duty as the Inhabitants do, such claimer shall be excused for his non-residence during such time.

2. And it is further enacted, That all houses that are fortified in said Town, shall be free for the use of the people and soldiers in the garrison.

3. That the Inhabitants of said Town shall be allowed five shillings and sixpence per week for billeting soldiers.

4. That Mounts shall be built in the Forts that are already made in said Town, at the public cost of the Colony. . . .

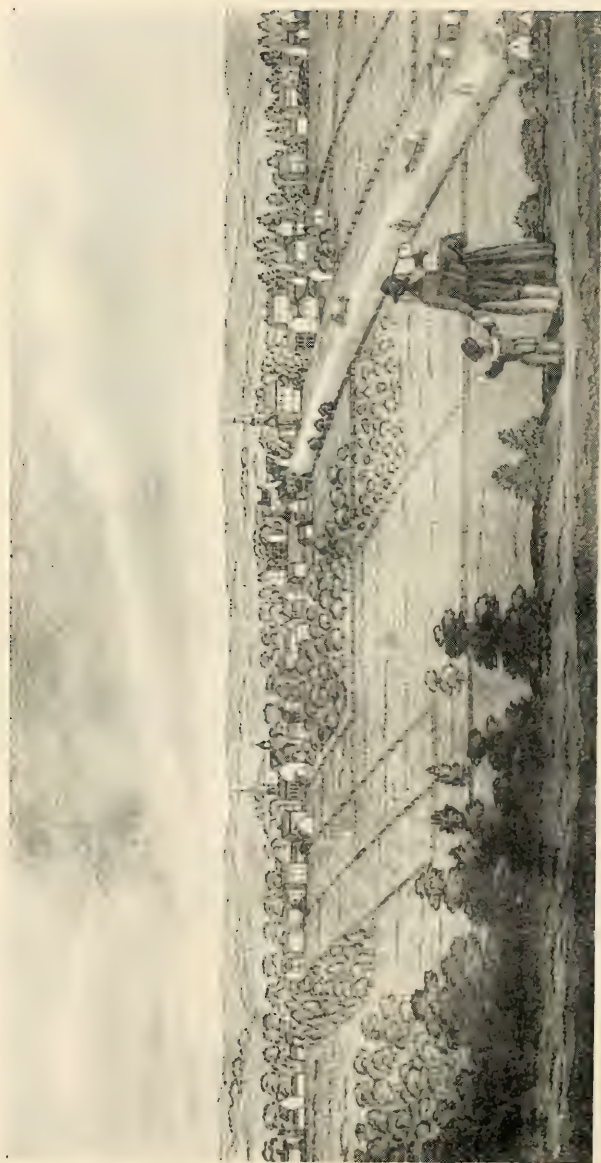


PRIMEVAL OAK









LITCHFIELD FROM CHESTNUT HILL. FROM BARBER'S HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS, 1836

5. That all able-bodied young men that are dwellers in said Town and are eighteen years old and upwards, and have no right to any Lands in said Town, and shall constantly reside therein until October next, and do duty with the Inhabitants, shall be allowed three shillings per week out of the Public Treasury, until October next, unless the Committee for the War in Hartford shall order to the contrary for part of said time.

6. That every able-bodied man that is fit for service to the acceptance of the commissioned officers, that hath a Right in said Town, and shall constantly reside therein and do his duty according to the command of the captain until October next, shall be allowed out of the Treasury eighteen pence per week, unless the Committee for the War shall order to the contrary for part of the time".

There was another side of the matter, which affected the inconvenience of the men drafted to help in the garrisoning of Litchfield, as we find from another petition submitted to Governor Talcott in May 1725:

"To the Honorable Joseph Talcott, Governor of His Majesty's Colony of Connecticut—Whereas, When your humble Petitioners were impressed to come up to Litchfield to keep garrison, we were encouraged by our officers to come, because it was but for a little while we should be continued here, just till the Inhabitants could get their seed into the ground. That business being over, and our necessity to be at home being very great, we humbly pray your Honor to dismiss or exchange us by the beginning of June; whereby your Honor will greatly oblige your Humble Petitioners.

JOSEPH ROSE,

Litchfield, May 23, 1725.

In behalf of the rest".

"During the summer of 1725", (Kilbourne, p. 47), "the war with the Eastern Indians still continued, though it does not appear that the people of Litchfield suffered in consequence, except in being kept in a state of suspense and anxiety.

"It is not until a year later, October 1726, that the records give indication that any immediate danger was again apprehended by the people of this Town. At this date, 'upon news that the Indian enemy were coming down upon our frontier', it was resolved 'that there be forthwith thirty effective men raised in the towns of New Haven and Wallingford to march to Litchfield, to be under the direction and command of Capt. John Marsh, of Litchfield, for the defense of said town — twenty of whom shall be raised in New Haven, and ten in Wallingford; and that a Sargeant march with them directly from each of said towns; and that the Major of the County make out his orders to the Captain in said town accordingly'.

"Twenty effective men were at the same time ordered immediately to be raised in Milford, and marched to New Milford, to be under the command of Capt. Stephen Nobles, for the defence of that town. Captains John Marsh and Stephen Nobles were directed at once to 'send forth small scouts, to call and in the name of the Assembly to com-

mand all the friendly Indians to retire to their respective towns or places where they belong, and not to be seen in the woods except with English men'. The friendly Indians were to be employed for the defense of the frontiers and for scouting, and were to be paid eighteen pence per day while engaged in the latter service and twelve pence per day for warding and keeping garrison in towns. Five men were directed to be sent from Woodbury for the defense of Shepaug until the danger should be over".

This was the last serious alarm caused by the Indians, but (Kilbourne, p. 68), "Other Memorials, of a later date than those given, complain of the difficulties which the settlers still encountered, and asked for legislative interference in their behalf. Indeed for more than thirty years after the Garrisons were erected, they were resorted to with more or less frequency, by individuals and families, on account of apprehended danger. One of these Garrisons stood on Chestnut Hill and was remembered by Elisha Mason, who died in Litchfield on May 1st, 1858".



## CHAPTER IV.

### THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN.

The earliest records of the town of Litchfield are found in the Record Book of the Proprietors in Hartford and of the Town Meetings in Litchfield. This old manuscript covers all the ground from 1715 to 1803. The long narrow pages are often difficult to decipher from age and from the unusual characters of the ancient caligraphy. It is without doubt the most valuable and curious single volume in our town. Through the wise forethought of our Town-Clerk, George H. Hunt, these old pages have been faced with transparent silk and strongly bound, and may be consulted by those interested at the Court House. They should be examined by all who are curious about old Litchfield history.

The Proprietors' meetings occupy one end of the book and the Town meetings the other. Apparently the first entry of a town meeting is undated. "Deacon John Buel and Nathaniel Smith were appointed a Committee to hire a minister, and to 'make and gather a rate' to pay him for his services among us". This Committee employed Mr. Timothy Collins, of Guilford, a young licentiate who had graduated at Yale College in 1718. At the next Meeting, held November 6, 1721, it was voted, 'that Mr. Collins be forthwith called to a settlement in this place in the work of the ministry'; and it was stipulated that he should receive fifty-seven pounds per year for four years, and thereafter, as follows: 'the fifth year, sixty pounds; the sixth year, seventy pounds; the seventh year, eighty pounds; and so to continue at eighty pounds per year' so long as he should remain in the pastoral office. It was also agreed to pay him one hundred pounds previous to the 1st day of July, 1722, and to furnish him with firewood". (Kilbourne, p. 28).

"The amount of his firewood for a series of years was by vote to be eighty cords per annum. This provision, very liberal for the times, was accepted by Mr. Collins on December 12, 1721; he entered upon his labors, was ordained on June 19, 1723, and continued to be the minister of the Congregational Society till the 15th of November 1752, when he was dismissed. He afterwards continued here, acting as a Justice of the Peace, and in the practice of Medicine, and died in 1776". (Woodruff, p. 21).

Timothy Collins is referred to as eccentric, but we shall never know what his peculiarities were. On the whole he does not appear to have been the right man to start the new colony. Dissension arose, first over pecuniary, and then apparently over personal, mat-

ters. His salary was liberal, as Woodruff says, but doubtless his expenditures were considerable also. He claimed that it was insufficient; and a long and bitter discussion arose, which lasted for the greater part of his stay. Naturally the population did not want higher rates, and they were already burdened with many charges. The foundation of an Episcopal Society as early as 1745 was probably due in part at least to disaffection with Mr. Collins. It is at least noteworthy that in December of that year a Committee was appointed "to eject Mr. Collins from the Parsonage Right". The year before this, 1744, the Town voted "not to make any rate for Mr. Collins under present difficulties", and at the same time a Committee was appointed to treat with him respecting his salary and "absence from the work of the ministry". On two occasions, 1751 and in 1753, after his withdrawal from the ministerial office, charges were brought against him before the Consociation and in Town Meeting, for unfaithfulness in his office. Both were protested against, but the pecuniary troubles lasted for a few years longer. Mr. Collins had his supporters, as well as his detractors, as is shown by his subsequent election to various civil offices, such as Lister and Selectman; and it should be noted that the only lawsuit brought against him was decided in his favor. In 1755, he was appointed Surgeon of one of the Connecticut Regiments in the Expedition against Crown Point.

"In April 1723, the inhabitants voted to build their first Church; and the house was finished within three years. It was built in a plain manner and without a steeple. Its dimensions were 45 feet in length and 35 in breadth....At the raising, all the adult males in the whole township, being present, sate on the sills at once. In the year 1760, the inhabitants agreed to build their second church; and completed it in 1762. Some time after a bell was procured". (Morris, p. 96).

As George C. Woodruff says, p. 26, it was probably in view of the construction of the first Meeting House, that the town voted, December 9, 1723, that "whosoever shall sell or transept any pine boards out of the Town, shall forfeit ten shillings per thousand".

The first church stood in Meeting-House Street, a little to the north of its center, and nearly opposite the northern extremity of Town Hill Street (South Street), as it now runs.

The second church was near the same site, and was 63 feet long and 42 feet wide. After its completion, the old church was sold at auction in November 1762.

This second church was the most justly celebrated of any of the two dozen or more church edifices that have been erected within our town limits. Here were enacted the most stirring home scenes of the Revolution; here Judah Champion preached for nearly fifty years; and here Lyman Beecher thundered against intemperance. Here the law students and the girls of the Litchfield Academy wor-

shipped; here were the pews of all the distinguished families of the town.

Inside, it was not at all a church such as we would recognise to-day. Of it Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote: "To my childish eye, our old meeting-house was an awe-inspiring thing. To me it seemed fashioned very nearly on the model of Noah's Ark and Solomon's Temple....Its double row of windows; its doors, with great wooden quirls over them; its belfry, projecting out at the east [west?] end; its steeple and bell; all inspired as much sense of the sublime in me as Strasbourg Cathedral itself; and the inside was not a whit less imposing. How magnificent, to my eye, seemed the turnip-like canopy that hung over the minister's head, hooked by a long iron rod to the wall above! and how apprehensively did I consider the question what would become of him if it should fall! How did I wonder at the panels on either side of the pulpit, in each of which was carved and painted a flaming red tulip, with its leaves projecting out at right angles, and then at the grape-vine, in bas-relief, on the front, with exactly triangular bunches of grapes alternating at exact intervals with exactly triangular leaves. The area of the house was divided into large square pews, boxed up with a kind of baluster work, which I supposed to be provided for the special accommodation of us youngsters, being the loophole of retreat through which we gazed on the remarkabilia of the scene.... But the glory of our meeting-house was its singers' seat, that empyrean of those who rejoiced in the mysterious art of fa-sol-la-ing. There they sat in the gallery that lined three sides of the house, treble, counter, tenor and bass, each with its appropriate leader and supporters. There were generally seated the bloom of our young people, sparkling, modest and blushing girls on one side, with their ribbons and finery, making the place as blooming and lively as a flower-garden, and fiery, forward, confident young men on the other". (Autobiography, Vol. I., p. 211).

The pews opened onto two aisles, which ran up and down the church, the seats occupied the other three sides of each pew, so that when the pews were full one-third of the congregation were seated with their backs to the pulpit.

The first church was never heated, though individual members of the congregation would bring their own foot-stoves in very cold weather. No stove was introduced into the second church until 1816, when there occurred the great Stove War, about which much has been written. Kilbourne, p. 165, quotes the account of the editor of the Hartford Courant, who claims to have been a protagonist in this famous struggle: "Violent opposition had been made to the introduction of a stove into the old meeting-house, and an attempt made in vain to induce the Society to purchase one. The writer was one of seven young men who finally purchased a stove, and requested permission to put it up in the meeting-house on trial. After much difficulty, the Committee consented. It was all arranged on Saturday afternoon, and on Sunday we took our seats in the



Bass, rather earlier than usual, to see the fun. It was a warm November Sunday, in which the sun shone cheerfully and warmly on the old south steps and into the naked windows. The stove stood in the middle aisle, rather in front of the Tenor Gallery. People came in and stared. Good old Deacon Trowbridge, one of the most simple-hearted and worthy men of that generation, had been induced to give up his opposition. He shook his head, however, as he felt the heat reflected from it, and gathered up the skirts of his great-coat as he passed up the broad aisle to the Deacons' Seat. Old Uncle Noah Stone, a wealthy farmer of the West End, who sat near, scowled and muttered at the effects of the heat, but waited until noon, to utter his maledictions over his nut-cakes and cheese at the intermission. There had in fact been *no fire in the stove*, the day being too warm. We were too much upon the broad grin to be very devotional, and smiled rather loudly at the funny things we saw. But when the editor of the village paper, Mr. Bunce, came in, who was a believer in stoves for churches, and with a most satisfied air warmed his hands by the stove, keeping the skirts of his great-coat carefully between his knees, we could stand it no longer, but dropped invisible behind the breastwork. But the climax of the whole was when Mrs. Peck went out in the midst of the service! It was, however, the means of reconciling the whole society; for, after that first day, we heard of no more opposition to the warm stove in the meeting-house".

Once they became accustomed to the stove, even the opponents to its introduction must have appreciated its warmth in the very cold weather. The services were very long, and were continued in the afternoons. The congregation went home for a meal between the two services, but those from out-of-town had to rely on the hospitality of those near the church, or on the convenience of the Sabbath-day Houses, Sabbaday Houses, as they were colloquially called.

"At a town meeting, December 1753, liberty was voted to Isaac Hosford and others 'to erect a house for their convenience on Sabbath Days, east of the meeting-house'. In January 1759, liberty was granted to John Farnham to 'set up a Sabbath-Day House in the highway a little north of the School House'. Capt. Edward Phelps erected a similar house in the middle of East Street nearly opposite the present Congregational church; and still another was remembered by the late Elisha Mason, which stood on the south side of East Street, near the present Hinsdale house... These houses generally consisted of two rooms, each about twelve feet square, with a chimney between them and a fire-place in each room; and in such cases were erected at the expense of two or more families. If the cold was extreme the hired man or one of the sons might be sent forward in advance of the family, to get the room well warmed before their arrival. The family, after filling the ample saddle-bags with refreshments, took an early start for the sanctuary. Calling first at their Sabbath-Day House, they



deposited their luncheon. At noon, they returned to their room, with perhaps a few friends. The fire was re-kindled, the saddle-bags were brought forth and their contents placed upon a prophet's table, of which all partook. The patriarch of the household then drew from his pocket the notes he had taken of the morning sermon, which were fully reviewed, all enjoying the utmost freedom in their remarks. All then returned to the church. Before starting for home at the close of the afternoon service, they once more repaired to their Sabbath House, gathered up the saddle-bags, saw that the fire was left safe, and in due time all were snugly seated in the sleigh, and bound homeward". (Kilbourne, p. 74).

"The subject of seating the meeting-house often came up for action in town meeting and produced not a little commotion. Various standards were used in other towns to secure a fair seating list, such as, Long public service, Dignity of descent, Rank in the Grand List, Age, and Piety. In December 1735, a Committee was appointed in Town Meeting to proceed as follows: 'Every man's list for four years past shall be added together, and every man's age be reckoned at twenty shillings per year, to be added to his list; and for them that have not four lists, they shall be seated by the last list, or according to the discretion of the committee'. The Committee proceeded according to these instructions, but the result did not suit. Their doings were ordered to be set aside; on April 12, 1736, a new committee was appointed, with no other instructions than to act in accordance with their best judgment. Their action, for a wonder, was acquiesced in". (Kilbourne, p. 58).

"All ecclesiastical as well as school affairs were transacted in town meeting until the year 1768. The Second Ecclesiastical Society having been incorporated in South Farms in 1767, the First Society met for the first time, May 9, 1768. There was little done at these Society's meetings, from year to year, except to appoint officers, Committees and Choristers. Now and then we find an entry of a different character. Thus, December 1772, measures were 'taken for coloring the meeting-house and putting up *Electrical Rods*'. At the same meeting, the Society's Committee were directed 'not to let the Town's stock of Powder and Ball to be stored in said house.'" (Kilbourne, p. 173). To this Miss Esther H. Thompson (Waterbury American, March 8, 1906) has added the following reflections: "This measure may have been taken because some of the more conservative men were not quite sure whether increasing safety or danger might be the result of the other vote to provide *Electrical Rods* for the church! When we remember the comparative isolation of our town and the slowness with which changes of any kind were then effected we are surprised at the intelligence and enterprise of our former townspeople as shown by this record of December 1772, only 20 years after Benjamin Franklin, far away in Philadelphia, was flying his first kite to bring down lightning from the skies, and only 17 years after his invention of the lightning rod! Ninety years later, when in the winter of 1861-2, the Third Con-

gregational church was struck by lightning it is curious that damage should have been caused by a defective lightning conductor, possibly the identical rod of heavy links that had served on the old church!"

After Mr. Collins had left the church, in February 1753, the Town voted to call the Rev. Judah Champion, of East Haddam, a graduate of Yale 1751, and to offer him two thousand pounds in old tenor money for his settlement, and a yearly salary of eight hundred pounds, old tenor money.

Mr. Champion accepted the call, was ordained July 4, 1753, and continued in the ministry till 1798. His salary was continued till his decease in 1810, in his 82nd year. For the purpose of paying the settlement of Mr. Champion, it was voted, on June 14, 1753, to lease to him so much of the Parsonage Right as should be necessary for that purpose, for the term of 999 years. And on January 15, 1754, a lease of the home lot and twenty acre division adjoining, was given to Mr. Champion, in consideration of said settlement. This land was known later as the glebe land, and the title is preserved in the name of the house owned by Mrs. W. W. Rockhill, which is called The Glebe.

In personal appearance, Judah Champion is described as short, erect, with an elastic gait; he had a frank, open countenance, that bespoke his sincerity and fearlessness. He exercised unbounded influence over his parish. As a preacher, he was ardent and eloquent, though he is said to have lacked somewhat of 'discrimination in his theology'. This was so severe a fault in those days, that Dr. Bellamy, the great theologian of Bethlehem, once jocosely said that 'he would like to have brother Champion made over again'. During his pastorate, 1753 to 1798, 280 persons were added to the church upon the profession of their faith; he officiated at 2,142 baptisms, 658 marriages, and 1,530 funerals.

The subject of the minister's salary still gave continued trouble, owing to the fluctuating currency. Judah Champion was so universally beloved, however, that the matter was never allowed to make the personal difficulty which it had caused with Timothy Collins. In 1779, the Society, in an endeavor to stabilize his salary, voted to pay him seventy-five pounds sixteen shillings, as a year's salary, "in the following articles at the prices affixed, Wheat at four shillings per bushel; Rye at three shillings; Indian Corn at three shillings; Flax at sixpence per pound; Pork at twenty-five shillings per hundredweight; Beef at twenty shillings per hundredweight; Tried Tallow at sixpence per pound; Lard at fivepence; Oats at one shilling per bushel".

Mr. Champion's successor was the Rev. Dan Huntington, a tutor at Yale College. He was ordained in October, 1798. "During his ministry, a remarkable religious awakening overspread this and the adjacent parishes, resulting in the conversion of about three hundred persons among the different denominations of Litchfield.



*Congregational Church at Fitchfield, Vt. Erected in 1762. Taken down in 1827  
 from a former sketch by Miss Mary Ann Lewis. Copied by Emily Hayes Lundsgaard, Sept. 1877  
 The small building on the left was the Mark's house the one on the right the Parsonage House.*

# THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1762

From a Sketch by Miss Mary Ann Lewis



REV. LYMAN BEECHER



'This town', says Mr. Huntington, 'was originally among the number of those decidedly opposed to the movements of former revivalists; and went so far, in a regular church meeting called expressly for the purpose under the ministry of Mr. Collins, as to let them know, by a unanimous vote, that they did not wish to see them. The effect was, they did not come. The report circulated, that Litchfield had 'voted Christ out of their borders'. It was noticed by some of the older people, that the death of the last person then a member of the church, was a short time before the commencement of our revival.'" (Kilbourne, p. 174).

Again the difficulties of salary arose, and finally in 1810, Mr. Huntington decided to leave, though with much mutual regret. In March, 1810, the Society voted a unanimous call to the Rev. Lyman Beecher, which was accepted, and he was installed on May 30, 1810. Litchfield was so fearful that the salary might be inadequate to a preacher of the reputation which Lyman Beecher had already established at East Hampton, that it awaited his arrival with some trepidation. Happily all turned out for the best, and the sixteen years of Beecher's pastorate were memorable ones for the town.

He has left us his own first impressions of his reception. (Autobiography, Vol. I., p. 185): "I found the people of Litchfield impatient for my arrival, and determined to be pleased, if possible, but somewhat fearful that they shall not be able to persuade me to stay. The house yesterday was full, and the conference in the evening, and, so far as I have heard, the people felt as I have told you they intended to. Had the people in New York been thus predisposed, I think I should not have failed to give them satisfaction. My health is good, and I enjoy good spirits some time past; am treated with great attention and politeness, and am becoming acquainted with agreeable people".

The following notice of Lyman Beecher is abbreviated from Morgan's Connecticut as a Colony and as a State, Vol. IV., pp. 285-286: "...Lyman Beecher, great father of great children, who, on the bleak Litchfield hills and in the seething discussions of Boston, brought up his children in such fashion that they became a power for good in their generation.

"Possibly his life did not seem to him successful; it was at least full of struggle. Descended from one of the original settlers of New Haven, he was graduated from Yale in 1797, and after a brief settlement in Easthampton, Long Island, went to Litchfield, where he remained for sixteen years. Dr. Beecher was a preacher of powerful sermons, rather than a writer of monumental works... Removing to Boston as the pastor of the Hanover Street Church, he encountered the Unitarian movement in its aggressive stage; and so strong was the feeling against such rebutting influences as his that when his church burned down, the firemen refused to put out the fire. Again at Lane Seminary, Cincinnati, he struggled for twenty years to found a Western institution, only to be defeated at

last by the triumphant pro-slavery party. Here, all unknown, were influences that were shaping the future Uncle Tom's Cabin. Dr. Beecher's sermon on Duelling at the time of Hamilton's death at the hands of Aaron Burr, was very impressive; and his Views on Theology, and Political Atheism were read with much attention. Dying in 1863, he sleeps in New Haven, the place of his birth".

E. D. Mansfield wrote of him, (*Personal Memories*, p. 138): "His house was just across the street from Mrs. Lord's, where I boarded, and as my window was on that side of the house I used often to see him and hear his violin, of which he was very fond, sending forth merry tunes. It is said that he would return from a funeral and send forth the quickest airs from his fiddle. He was of the most cheerful temperament... He was called the 'great gun of Calvinism', and it seemed to me the very irony of fate to see him tried ten years after by the Presbytery of Cincinnati for heresy in Calvinistic Theology".

Theodore Parker once said that Lyman Beecher was the father of more brains than any other man in America. Little can be said here of these children, as only their childhood was spent in Litchfield. The lives of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry Ward Beecher, Isabel Beecher Hooker, the pioneer of women's rights, Thomas Beecher, and the rest belong elsewhere. We may at least give an anecdote of each of the first two during their lives in Litchfield.

It was while a pupil at Miss Pierce's Academy that Harriet Beecher first distinguished herself in the literary line. At a public exhibition of the school, three of the best compositions of the year were read aloud by the teacher. "When my turn came", she wrote in after life, "I noticed that my father, who was sitting on high by Mr. Brace, brightened and looked interested, and at the close I heard him ask, 'Who wrote that composition?' 'Your daughter, Sir,' was the answer. It was the proudest moment of my life". The subject of this essay by so young a child is perhaps the most remarkable part of the story. It was: 'Can the Immortality of the Soul be proved by the light of Nature?'

Clarence Deming had many stories of the Beechers, which he collected from David C. Bulkley and William Norton. He has described the Henry Ward Beecher of Litchfield as a stout, florid youngster of the stocky type, running around in short jacket, with a fresh and rather moonish face, fair hair, pretty closely cropped above, but with one of those curls plastered before the ear which our ancestors used to style 'soap-locks', from the chief agent used in their construction.

"A little way back from their school", Mr. Deming used to tell, "was an old barn with full hay mow, where the boys played during recess. On the crest of the mow, Henry built himself a ridge of hay into the rough likeness of his father's pulpit. By making a hole behind it, he lowered himself so as to bring the pulpit's edge

to his chest; in some way he got hold of an immense pair of blue goggles, which gave him a most whimsical air. Then he would mount his airy perch, and begin his sermon to his school mates; he used no articulate words, but a jargon of word-sounds, with rising and falling inflections, wonderfully mimicking those of his father. The rotund phrasing, the sudden fall to solemnity, the sweeping paternal gesture, the upbrushing of the hair, were all imitated perfectly by the son. At the end of this novel service, by way of benediction, he would take off the goggles, dash away the front of the pulpit, double himself up and roll down the slope of the hay mow into the midst of his merry congregation".

Harriet Beecher was born in Litchfield, June 14, 1811, and Henry Ward Beecher, June 24, 1813. The Beecher house was the scene of many happy days with all the children. Here too occurred some of those famous showers, of which the minister's home was the recipient in those generous old days. Catherine Beecher has left us an account of one of these, in the Beecher Autobiography, Vol. I., p. 325: "The most remarkable and unique of these (demonstrations of the affection of his parishioners after his wife's death) was what in New England is called the minister's wood-spell, when, by previous notice, on some bright winter day, every person in the parish who chooses to do so sends a sled load of wood as a present to the pastor. On this occasion we were previously notified that the accustomed treat of doughnuts, and loaf-cake, cider and flip, must be on a much larger scale than common....When the auspicious day arrived, the snow was thick, smooth, and well packed for the occasion; the sun shone through a sharp, dry and frosty air; and the whole town was astir. Toward the middle of the afternoon, runners arrived with news of the gathering of the squadrons. Mount Tom was coming with all its farmers; Bradleyville also; Chestnut Hill, and the North and South settlements; while the Town Hill gentry were on the qui vive to hunt up every sled and yoke of oxen not employed by their owners. Before sun-down the yard, and the lower rooms of our house were swarming with cheerful faces. Father was ready with his cordial greetings, adroit in detecting and admiring the special merits of every load as it arrived. The kind farmers wanted to see all the children, and we were busy as bees in waiting on them. The boys heated the flip-irons, and passed around the cider and flip, while Aunt Esther and the daughters were busy in serving the doughnuts, cake and cheese. And such a mountainous wood-pile as rose in our yard never before was seen in ministerial domains!"

In this connection we will reprint the following account of a shower to the second minister at South Farms, from the columns of the Litchfield Monitor, May 16, 1798. It has already been quoted by Elizabeth C. Barney Buel, (Mrs. John L. Buel), in her admirable essay, *The Spinning-Wheel*, 1903: "On Wednesday the second instant, visited at the house of the Rev. Amos Chase about 60 of his female friends parishioners, who made the very acceptable



presentation of seventy run of Yarn to his family. In the course of the decent and cordial socialities of the afternoon, the ladies were entertained by their pastor with a sermon adapted to the occasion,—from these words, Gen. XXXI. 43, ‘What can I do, this day, unto these my daughters?’ ”

Clarence Deming has told many anecdotes of the elder Beecher, as well as of his children. Several have to do with two of his chief characteristics, his absent-mindedness and his love of fishing, and one combines both; sometimes when the hour for a week-day service came, he would still be down on the Little Pond, a mile away, in his boat, the Yellow Perch. Then would follow the hasty dash up the hill behind his pastoral nag. At the end of one of the hasty returns, it is related that a small fish dropped from his coat tail pocket as he mounted the pulpit stairs.

Lyman Beecher's sermons were never inferior; but they were long, as was the wont of the day, and Mansfield has told us that they were also sometimes dull, but always likely to become inspired again with a fresh burst of eloquence. “The long, closely argumentative discourses of 100 years ago”, says Miss Esther H. Thompson, in the *Waterbury American*, 1906, “while drilling the hearers to be close listeners and deeply logical thinkers, most certainly were wearisome. An old friend remembered the time when on warm summer afternoons frequently men took off their coats in church and sat in their shirt-sleeves. One of our own earliest memories is that of a good old neighbor, who, following the custom of long ago, often walked by to church with no coat, only a vest and the whitest of shirt-sleeves. Farmers, wearied with the week's unceasing toil, found their best clothes and cramped position on hard seats all too trying for them easily to keep awake. As sleep threatened to overpower them, one and another man would arise, shake his cramped and tired legs, stretch well his arms above his head, then fold them over the top of the pew door, while he stood for a little time before settling down again in his seat, refreshed to endure the remainder of the service. All was so decorously and solemnly done, and the occurrence so common, that no one thought of smiling or criticising. Nor was it unusual for many a wearied woman to take her handkerchief, a corner of her shawl, anything, to cushion the hard rest for her head on the seat back in front of her, and soothe eyes and brain by a change of position. The much ridiculed carrying of dried orange peel, ‘meetin’ seed’ (fennel and carroway) to be frugally distributed among the family and munched during service time, was almost an act of devotion, a visible struggle to keep awake and receive the benefits of the exercises. In still earlier times the same end was accomplished through the services of a Tithing man, who with long pole, spiked at one end, and with knot or squirrel tail at the other, would prick or tickle into wakefulness the sleepy or punch into submission the disorderly. Tithing men continued to be appointed for all the churches in town till after 1815”.



Lyman Beecher was very much liked and admired throughout his stay. Col. Tallmadge, especially, was always endeavoring to do something to give him satisfaction. In the last years of Rev. Dan Huntington's ministry, he was instrumental in obtaining the Christening Bowl for the church, and in 1825 he and Julius Deming purchased the Communion service which is still in use.

With the departure of Lyman Beecher, the old Church on the Green was taken down, and the third church erected on the site of the present Congregational church. We have lingered on the old churches for several reasons. In the first place their ministers, especially Judah Champion and Lyman Beecher, were very remarkable men; but further than this, the early Congregational church in New England was typical of the whole population. It was the established church, so far as there has ever been any such in our country. The church affairs were voted upon in town meetings, the rate to maintain the church was laid alike on all citizens until the first steps in toleration began to be taken, and politics even found their way into the pulpit. The North and South Consociations, which included all the parishes in the County, were reputed to have a great power in the nominations for local and state officials. And finally the customs of this church were the customs of all the people. They gave the early settlers of Litchfield much of their character.

To quote the explanation of Arthur Goodenough, made in a like case: in *The Clergy of Litchfield County*, published by the Litchfield County University Club, 1909, p. xiii, "From my own point of view I excuse myself in part for the lack of proportion in treatment by assuming that the Congregational ministry was a part of the indigenous element which made Litchfield County to differ from the rest of the world, and so to be worthy of special mention, while those of other name represent the invasion of a cosmic influence that is making us like other people".

The great changes which were to take place in Litchfield in the thirties were foreshadowed by nothing more strongly than by the passing of the church from the individual position it held in the Green to its humbler setting on the street, where houses and stores could command positions on an equal footing. As though loath to go, the old spire, which had been considered unsafe, showed an unexpected strength. Even after half of its timbers were out and ropes had been attached to it and carried long distances in all directions, a line of a hundred men and boys and two yoke of oxen could not move it at all. Then the remaining great timbers, one by one, were sawed, till the last support was gone, and the graceful spire trembled, tottered, then suddenly sprang forward, turning a somersault, and fell burying its point deep in the ground close by the large west door.

## CHAPTER V.

### COLONIAL DAYS.

The first meeting of the inhabitants of Litchfield for the election of Town Officers was held on December 12, 1721, and resulted as follows:

John Marsh, Town Clerk.

John Buel, Nathaniel Hosford, John Marsh, Selectmen.

John Collins, (Caulkins?), Grand Jure.

William Goodrich, Constable and Collector.

Benjamin Gibbs, Thomas Lee, Surveyors.

Eleazer Strong, Samuel Root, Fence Viewers.

Daniel Culver, Hayward.

Joseph Bird, Collector of Minister's Rate.

The only other business done at this meeting was to admit an inhabitant, Joseph Kilbourn, of Wethersfield, who had recently purchased two Rights, one-thirtieth of the whole township, from two of the original proprietors, who had evidently been discouraged from coming to Litchfield to take up their own Rights. It is interesting to notice that newcomers had to be passed upon. As Woodruff has pointed out, p. 27, "the first inhabitants were peculiarly careful that none but persons of good character should be permitted to settle among them. If a stranger made a purchase in the plantation, a proviso was sometimes inserted in the deed, that the Inhabitants should accept of the purchaser, and that he should run 'the risk of trouble from the Grand Committee'. On the 1st of April, 1724, it was voted that 'the Commite of hartford and Windsor Chouce Inhabitance. In Cace any new are brought into town, and the town judg them not holsome, then to be Judged by indifrant men, and by them Judged Good inhabitance, the cost to be paid by Litchfield, if not the cost to be paid by the Commite that made Choice of said Inhabitantse'."

This vote was a wise one, as it insured the growth of the settlement through the accession of a fine group of pioneers. Henry Ward Beecher bore testimony later to the character of these men, in a passage quoted by Emily Noyes Vanderpoel, (Mrs. John A. Vanderpoel), *Chronicles of a Pioneer School*, p. 29: "The early settlers were men of broad and liberal mould, and began their work upon this hilltop in a characteristic fashion. They laid out their streets and staked off the village common, with such generous breadth that they remain the delight of residents and the admira-

tion of strangers to this day. They made such liberal provision for education and religion that the settlement soon became noted for the excellence of its schools and the commanding influence of its pulpit”.

It is probable, as stated elsewhere, that the wide streets were planned more for the convenience of the cattle than the delight of the residents and strangers; but the result to us is the same. In the early days, the streets were considerably wider even than they now are, as may be seen by pacing off the measurements given in a previous chapter. The hill was very swampy, from the hardpan subsoil, so that when the trees had been cleared alders grew up rapidly in the streets. Part of the hill, at least, was said to be an alder swamp even at the time of the arrival of the settlers. Just how far this was so cannot now be determined. There is a legend that part of the swamp, about where Crutch's Drug-Store now is, or a little to the north, was so boggy that the line of South Street, Town Hill Street as it was then called, was laid out to the east to avoid it, so that North Street and South Street to-day are not a continuous line. There is another tale of a very large oak, somewhere in the area of our present Center Park, so beautiful, that the settlers laid out North Street, Town Street as they called it, to the west, to avoid having to cut it. Neither of these stories is entirely convincing. The line of the streets at first had no resemblance whatsoever to their course at the present day. Their width was so broad, that the present Library Building would have encroached materially into the theoretical roadway. Through this wide expanse of alders and grass and hummocks wound along at first nothing more than a footpath, then came a variety of footpaths, one on either side of the tract and others crossing it where convenient. Gradually regular roads were developed, not much more than wheel tracks going up and down the tract, with a wide green belt of grass between. This double driveway extended along both North and South Streets, it is said, while oddly enough, on East and West Streets, which then constituted Meeting House Street and which to-day is divided by the parks into two streets, one by the stores and one by the County House, was then just one Street, running past the Meeting House, the School House and later the Court House. The story of the big oak is further rendered improbable by the settlers' hard struggles with the forest in general. Their only use for trees was to cut them down. The probable explanation of the discontinuity of the two streets running north and south is simply that it was most convenient to follow the natural crest of the hill in a more or less winding fashion, and that when later on the actual driveway was straightened out it would not adjust itself into one continuous line. As the line was broken anyway by the buildings then in the Green, this did not matter very much at the time.

It is difficult to think of our beautiful streets as still so unkempt in the period of the Revolution, that little Mary Pierce, a younger



half-sister of Miss Pierce who kept the Academy, got lost in the alder bushes when sent across the street on an errand to a neighbor's house.

The streets have been narrowed from their great early width by repeated town votes, granting strips of land to the abutting house-owners for the purposes of front yards. The earliest houses were built right on the road. As new strips of land have been given up by the town some of the newer houses have been built out onto this sometimes restricted land. A case in point is the house now owned by Miss Thurston on North Street. When this property was last transferred, it was found that a part of the dwelling was on restricted land, so that the town could have insisted on its being moved back. The matter was, however, arranged more simply by a release of the restriction.

The widest of all the streets was the present Gallows Lane, which was then called Middle Street and as we have seen was laid out 28 rods wide. The present name was not given until after May 8, 1780, when Barnet Davenport, a young man from Washington, who had committed several murders, was executed there.

Roads outside of the immediate center were also laid out gradually, though it would appear that there was no established connection for two years between what really constituted two separate settlements, one on Litchfield Hill and one on Chestnut Hill. On December 26, 1722, it was voted to lay out a highway from Bantam River to the Chestnut Hill home lots, "in the range where the foot-path now is". This vote was so popular that another town meeting was held the next day, December 27, 1722, at which it was voted "to lay out a highway from John Marsh's home lot to the south bounds; and the highway by Mr. Collins house to be continued to the north bounds; and the highway running east to be extended to the east bounds; and west, or south-west, from Thomas Pier's, according to the best skill of the Committee; and the highway running north from Pier's, to be continued to the north bounds".

The holding of town meetings on two consecutive days, as in the case just mentioned, was due sometimes to the rule requiring the adjournment of these meetings at the coming of evening. "No act of the town should stand in force", so ran the vote, "that was passed after day-light failed to record it". This regulation lasted for a long time; the only reference found to its abrogation is at a Town meeting of January 3, 1782, when it was voted that "the Selectmen bring in candles so that further business may be done this evening".

Sometimes the convenience found in this singular regulation has a slightly ironical flavor, as when, on April 14, 1731, it was "Voted, *after dark*, that Mr. Collins have the choice of pews for himself and family". Taking into account the many difficulties encountered in seating the meeting-house and the debatable popularity of Timothy



Collins, it looks as though the meeting was reserving to itself a loophole of escape if the minister took an advantage of this vote which was not to the general liking!

Many of these early votes are quaint to our eyes. Sometimes the spelling appears grotesque to us: "Voted to ajurn this meeting to to morah Sun half an hour High at Night"; "Voted that ye owners of schoolers sent to school for time to come shal find fire wood for ye schooll". Sometimes it is the character of the business transacted that constitutes the quaintness: "Voted liberty to Mr. Collins, to erect a Blacksmith's Shop joining to his fence the backside of the meeting-house"; "Voted that James Morris and Nathaniel Goodwin be added to the Nuisance Committee"; "Voted a Committee to assist the Clerk in perusing the town votes and to conclude what shall be transcribed into the town book, and what not"; "Voted unanimously to grant permission for the Small Pox to be communicated and carried on by Innoculation on Gillets Folly so called, it being a Peninsula or neck of land belonging to Stephen Baldwin in the Northern part of the Great Pond".

This last vote is from the town meeting of March 11, 1783, and takes us back to the terrible Small-pox scare that passed over the whole country during and at the close of the Revolution. For a time the columns of the Monitor were filled with notices of physicians offering to inoculate in different parts of the county, though it would appear that the practise of inoculation in our town was carefully restricted and supervised during the whole period of twenty years that Pest-houses were continued.

Several applications for new establishments, if they deserved so high-sounding a name, are found in the votes of the Town.

April 7, 1783: "A Petition of sundry Inhabitants of South Farms praying for Liberty to set up Inoculation for the Small Pox on Marsh's Point being read and considered was negatived".

October 15, 1798: "Uriah Tracy was chosen Moderator. At which Meeting there was a written request exhibited by several Gentlemen of said Town of Litchfield, praying for the establishment of two or more Pest Houses in the Western part of the said Town for the greater convenience of inoculation to the people residing in the Western part of the South Farms Society and so in the Society of Milton. Voted not to add to the number of Houses already assigned by said Town for said purpose".

The most elaborate description in the records of the conduct of these houses is contained in another vote, which may be quoted at some length, as showing the nature of such an early Hospital, and the fear of contagion which surrounded it:

March 20, 1797: "Voted that permission be, and the same is, hereby granted to the civil Authority and Selectmen of the Town to give liberty for the Small Pox to be communicated by inoculation at the house of Daniel Lord, standing on Chestnut Hill, purchased by him of the heirs of Michael Dickinson, also the house of Ros-

well Harrison, lately the property of Thomas Harrison: Places in the Town and at no other Place; and the Hospitals so to be opened shall be governed by the following rules and regulations and such others as the Civil Authorities and the Selectmen shall from time to time adopt, to wit:

"First, that limits be proscribed over which the Person infected shall not be suffered to go.

"Second, that the limits thus proscribed do not extend within forty rods of any public road except those necessary to be improved for said Purpose on which signals shall be placed at least the aforesaid number of rods from each side of said Hospital by which Persons may acquaint themselves of the Business.

"Third, that Captain William Bull and James Morris, Esqr., be and the same are hereby appointed Overseers to appoint or approve of the Nurses or Tenders necessary to be employed, to give orders respecting the Time the Persons infected, their Nurses and Tenders, shall continue in the aforesaid Hospital, and also respecting their changing and coming out, and such other order and direction as shall be judged most expedient (for) preserving the inhabitants from taking the Infection, for which service a recompense shall be paid by those concerned.

"Fourth, that no Person thus infected be suffered to depart without first obtaining from said Committee or some Physician by them appointed a Certificate giving his or their Approbation.

"Fifth, and that each Person before inoculation do procure good and sufficient Bonds to answer the Penalty of the Statute in such case made and provided: that he or they will strictly comply with all and singular the foregoing Rules and Regulations and such others as the Civil Authority and Selectmen shall adopt, which Bonds shall be taken by the aforesaid Overseers.

"Sixth, that the several Physicians shall also procure Bonds for security against spreading the infection through their means and not to inoculate anyone who shall not procure a Certificate from one or more said Overseers.

"Seventh, that the Nurses and Tenders shall also procure Bonds not to admit any Person in said Hospital without the consent of the Overseers and to use all due attention to prevent the spreading the same through their means or neglect".

We have no record of any casualties in Litchfield from the Inoculation, fortunately, but may of the people were infected. The beautiful and sprightly Mariann Wolcott, about whom we shall write more presently, was one of these, as we learn from a letter from her father, Gov. Oliver Wolcott Sr., to Mrs. Wolcott, March 22, 1777: "I have this instant rec'd a Letter from Dr. Smith, of the 12th, wherein he tells me that you and the children have been inoculated for the Small Pox, and that he apprehended you was so far thro' it as to be out of Danger, casualties excepted,—News which is very agreeable to me, as I have for some time been much concerned lest you should take the infection of that distressing Disease unpre-

pared. I perceive that Mariana has had it bad; he writes, 'very hard'. I am heartily sorry for what the little child has suffered and very much want to see her. If she has by this lost some of her Beauty, which I hope she has not, yet I well know she might spare much of it and still retain as much as most of her sex possess". (Wolcott Memorial, p. 168).

In another letter from Dr. Reuben Smith to Oliver Wolcott Sr., dated April 17, 1777, is preserved an account of the origin of the scare:

"Some soldiers having brought home the small pox, I found a number had ventured upon inoculation without making proper provision that it might not spread in the town. The people were much divided; some warmly engaged for inoculation, others as warmly opposed. Unhappily for me, I was chosen one of the Selectmen this year and was therefore under a necessity of interposing in the matter; and thought best, as it was against law, neither to encourage or oppose, but endeavor to bring it under a proper regulation, in which, however, I failed of the wished for success, our counsels being very much divided. Several having taken in the natural way from those that were inoculated, Captain Marsh was engaged to crush inoculation wholly; and some people have been so unreasonable as to say Mr. Strong was both for and against it. Be that as it may, it served as a game. Both had like to have been losers."

No accurate record has been preserved as to who was the last survivor of the original settlers of Litchfield. Supply Strong, the father of Jedediah Strong, lived to the age of 90, and died in 1786; but it is possible that others lived to a later date. Among the children whom the settlers brought with them into the wilderness, should be mentioned Zebulon Gibbs, who was only nine years old when his father, Benjamin Gibbs, came to Litchfield in 1720. He died in 1803, at the ripe age of 92 years. It so happened that the first male child born in the settlement was his younger brother, Gershom Gibbs, born July 28, 1721. We recognize in the latter's name the old Puritan knowledge of the Bible; for in Exodus, II, 22, it is written: "And she bare (Moses) a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land". In the Revolution, Gershom Gibbs, was taken a prisoner by the English at Fort Washington, and died in prison. The first white child born in Litchfield was Eunice, the daughter of Jacob Griswold; she was born on March 21, 1721, and was afterwards the wife of Captain Solomon Buel.

Certainly the two most prominent of this gallant band of men were John Marsh and John Buel, of whom we will quote the following accounts from Kilbourne, p. 70:

"John Marsh had long been a prominent citizen of Hartford before he interested himself in the Western Lands; and from the time when he came out to 'view the new plantation' in May, 1715, till about the year 1738, his name was intimately associated with



the history of Litchfield. He served this town in the various offices within her gift during the entire period of his residence here. While an inhabitant of Hartford, he was often a Representative in the Legislature, a Justice of the Peace, an Associate Judge of the County Court, and a member of the Council of War. He returned to Hartford from Litchfield in his old age, and died there. He was interred in the old Burying Ground back of the Center Church. His children remained in this town, and his descendants here and elsewhere are very numerous.

"John Buel was about fifty years of age when he became a resident of this town, and had previously filled the office of Deacon of the church in Lebanon. He was repeatedly elected to almost every office within the gift of his fellow citizens, besides being appointed on nearly all the most important Committees. As a Deacon in the Church, Captain of the Militia, Selectman, Treasurer, Representative, and Justice of the Peace, he discharged his duties efficiently and faithfully. A brief anecdote, as given by Mr. Powers, in his Centennial Address at Goshen, will serve to illustrate the benevolence of his character: In the winter of 1740-41, a man came from Cornwall to purchase some grain for himself and family, who were in great need, and was directed to Deacon Buel. The stranger soon called, and made known his errand. The Deacon asked him if he had the money to pay for the grain. He answered affirmatively. 'Well', said the Deacon, 'I can show you where you can procure it'. Going with the stranger to the door, he pointed out a certain house to him saying, 'There lives a man who will let you have grain for your money. I have some to spare, but I must keep it for those who have no money'. Deacon Buel died April 6, 1746, aged 75 years. His wife survived him 22 years. Both were interred in the West Burying Ground".

These two leaders of Litchfield were associated in every movement for the progress of the town. On the 6th of February 1722, the use of the stream of Bantam River and thirty acres of land was voted to them, on condition that they would erect a Grist Mill and keep the same in order. And it was they again who were directed to petition the General Assembly the same year "for liberty to set up a church and society in Litchfield".

They were also among those appointed to negotiate a settlement of the boundary line between Litchfield and Waterbury. The several boundaries of the township continued to be a cause of dispute for over fifty years, but as the bounds as finally adjusted appear to be satisfactory to-day, and wholly a matter of course, it is not necessary to review all the transactions that took place in detail. The bounds on the east and west being formed by the Naugatuck and Housatonic Rivers, there was little question as to their whereabouts. But on the north and south, the various white oak trees and trees with stones about them which are mentioned in the Town Patent were naturally open to increasing variety of interpretation as the years passed. The North line was run by Roger Sherman,



afterwards a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He lived in New Milford, and was appointed County Surveyor of the then new County of Litchfield in 1754, and his manuscript account of our northern boundary is still preserved. The determination of the southern bounds was a more disputatious business and no one of such distinction was involved in its settlement. After the settlement of the Waterbury boundary in 1722, the Woodbury boundary remained in dispute for some twenty years. A committee of Litchfield men 'perambulated' this part of the wilderness in 1727 with a committee from Woodbury. In 1728, two Agents were chosen to act in the 'controversy'. In 1731, they were re-appointed to enquire "what light can be had concerning our line". Taxes were laid in the same year and again in 1742, to defray the expenses involved in all this perambulating and searching. As no one could know where such a line did run, there never having been any carefully defined line anyway, the matter dragged on, and apparently adjusted itself in the end, for no definite record of the settlement has survived, though the line is now happily established somehow. When Old Judea was set off from the town of Woodbury in 1779, under its present name of Washington, the boundary came up once more, the inhabitants of the new township arbitrarily changing the line in their petition for an incorporation so as to include within their limits all of Davies' Hollow and the adjoining sections of Mount Tom. At first the Litchfielders, in great excitement, resolved to defend their claim before the General Assembly, appointing Andrew Adams to appear for them. Finally, perhaps because of the strong Episcopalian sentiment in that region, which was not considered any too desirable at a period when the Church of England and the tories were always linked together, it was decided not to oppose the change in the line, and Colonel Adams was again appointed, this time to appear before the General Assembly with a petition that Washington be allowed to "regulate the line of the town" in its own way.

The boundaries of South Farms were established and defined in 1767; those of Northfield in 1794; and those of Milton in 1795, when each of those separate parishes was organized. Much later, in 1859, South Farms was set off as a distinct township under the name of Morris.

"It is an interesting fact", (Kilbourne, p. 61), "that the town of Goshen was organized at the house of Deacon John Buel in West Street. On September 27, 1738, the proprietors of Goshen, then called New Bantam, met there and again on the following day, when the organization of the town was completed. Dating from this day, the Centennial anniversary of Goshen was celebrated on September 28, 1838, on which occasion an interesting historical discourse was delivered by the Rev. Grant Powers. Several of the original proprietors of Goshen were residents of Litchfield". A fuller account of the meetings held in Deacon Buel's house is given in Rev. A. G. Hibbard's *History of Goshen*, 1897, pp. 31-35.

Rivalry between Woodbury and Litchfield again developed in connection with the establishment of the new County, and this time Goshen was also a rival, not to speak of Canaan and Cornwall. The rivalry was over the location of the County Seat, which was established finally in Litchfield, and the County was called Litchfield County. Woodbury had of course no chance to be made the County Seat, because of its remote position, but it took the opportunity to try to organize a separate County, or to be re-annexed to Fairfield County. These and later attempts of the same kind were not successful. The claims of Goshen to be the County Seat were much more considerable, chiefly because of its central position in the territory. Several families who were coming into these parts at that time moved to Goshen in the expectation that its claims to leadership would be successful; among those who did so, and who came to Litchfield when, in 1751, the matter was finally decided, was Oliver Wolcott, who was appointed the first High Sheriff. The County Treasurer was John Catlin; the County Clerk was Isaac Baldwin; one of the Associate Judges was Ebenezer Marsh; all of Litchfield; the remaining County officers and Judges were from other parts of the County.

The formation of the County was a most important event for the prosperity of Litchfield; legally, commercially, socially, and indirectly educationally, much of the success and prestige of Litchfield dates from this time. All the Courts for the County met in Litchfield, including the Supreme Court of Errors, and the Superior and County Courts. These Courts all continued to meet in Litchfield and not elsewhere in the County until 1873. In that year thirteen of the towns in the County, but not including Litchfield, were constituted a Judicial District, known as the District Court for the First District of Litchfield, with sessions at Winchester (the Courts sitting at Winsted), Canaan (the Courts sitting at Falls Village), and New Milford. This Court was abolished in 1883 and the Court of Common Pleas for Litchfield County constituted with sessions at Litchfield and the three towns just named. In 1881 the District Court of Waterbury was given jurisdiction over several towns in this County. In the same year Litchfield County was included with Hartford, Tolland, Middlesex and Windham Counties in the first judicial District of the Supreme Court of Errors with sessions only at Hartford. In 1897 an act was passed providing for sessions of the Superior Court at Litchfield, New Milford and Winchester. These changes have greatly reduced the importance of Litchfield as a judicial center in the last fifty years.

The importance which the formation of the new County gave to Litchfield led to a singular contrast, for we find Litchfield in the position of a County Seat, with its courts and other business, yet with no newspaper, no mail-service, no means for passenger travel!

It was a life that centered within itself to a degree that we can with difficulty picture to-day. The condition of the roads, so far as there were any roads, prevented travel except on horseback, save when the snow made sleighing a possibility. Kilbourne says, p. 166; "Horses were trained to carry double; and it was not an uncommon thing to see father, mother and at least one child mounted on the same horse. Long journeys were sometimes taken with this triple load. For years after the Old Forge, in the western part of the town, was erected, the ore for its use was brought from the iron-mines of Kent in bags slung across the backs of horses; and the bar-iron manufactured there, was bent in the form of ox-bows and carried to market on horseback. Ox-carts and ox-sleds were common, and journeys of hundreds of miles were not infrequently made in these tedious vehicles. Many of the ambitious and hardy young men of this town, who emigrated to Vermont, to the Genesee Country, and to New Connecticut, went on foot, each carrying a pack, in which was enclosed, as an indispensable part of his outfit, a new axe. Some who thus went, became men of wealth and distinction.

"There was no public conveyance between Litchfield and the neighboring or more remote towns, for a period of nearly seventy years after the settlement of the place commenced. As early as 1766, it is true, William Stanton was a post-rider between Litchfield and Hartford; but as it is said that his journeys were performed on horseback, the inference is that he did not make a practice of carrying passengers! Indeed, during the Revolution, all regular communication between the interior towns was suspended, even where it had before existed; but expresses were sent hither and thither, as the exigencies of the hour might demand. Litchfield was on the great inland route from Boston to New York, as well as on that from Hartford to Westpoint, so that the travel through the town was very great.

"The establishment of a weekly paper in this village, in 1784, seemed to call for some method of obtaining and circulating the news. There was not a Post-Office or a Mail Route in the County of Litchfield; and how the subscribers contrived to get their papers may well be regarded as a mystery by the publishers of our day. In 1789, Jehiel Saxton, a post-rider between New Haven and Lenox, passed through this town on his route, at stated intervals. In 1790, another of this interesting class of primitive letter-carriers and errand-men, commenced his long and lonely rides over the almost interminable succession of hills, between the Litchfield Court-House and the city of New York, leaving each place once a fortnight. That was a proud day for Litchfield—perhaps for New York also!" (Kilbourne, p. 167).

It is readily conceived that in such a state of isolation, the early settlers of Litchfield were more immediately concerned with laying out the Little Plain, where the West Cemetery now is, and with draining the adjacent swamps along the river into four acre meadows for the use of those who were working up their herds, than with the



great concerns of the outer world. Kilbourne notes that the First French War, 1744-1748, came and went without leaving a trace on our minute book of the town meetings. The matter of the new County, which was just then coming up, was a business of vastly greater importance to the town than how a war which was in progress at such a distance should be decided.

When the Last French War, 1755-1763, began, Litchfield had developed so rapidly as to be ready to do its share from the beginning. At the start of the war, Connecticut raised a force of a thousand men, and this was gradually increased to five thousand, which was maintained through all the campaigns. Unfortunately, but a single list of the soldiers raised in Litchfield during this period has been preserved, and many of the names on it are of men who came to Litchfield to enlist. This is the pay-roll for Capt. Archibald McNeile's Company, in the second regiment of Connecticut Forces, for the year 1762, which is on file in the office of the Secretary at Hartford. This list is reprinted in the Appendix. Some of the officers who received commissions in these years were undoubtedly at the War, but it is no longer possible to say which ones. The list of these is as follows:

1756: Captain Solomon Buel;

1757: Colonel Ebenezer Marsh; Captain Isaac Baldwin; Lieutenant Joshua Smith; Ensign Abner Baldwin;

1758: Ensign Zebulon Gibbs; Captain Archibald McNeile;

1760: Lieutenant Stephen Smith; Lieutenant Eli Catlin;

1761: Lieutenant Isaac Moss; Lieutenant Josiah Smith; Lieutenant Asa Hopkins; Ensign Gideon Harrison; Ensign David Landon;

1762: Ensign Lynde Lord.

We also know that Timothy Collins was Surgeon of one of the Connecticut Regiments at the battle of Crown Point. The only narrative of service is the very laconic one made by Zebulon Gibbs: "I was active in the French War in the year 1756 till the year 1762. I was conductor of teams and horses, by which means I obtained the title of Captain".

The names of the more prominent settlers and those of the men of action in the wars of the time will not, however, paint for us a true or complete picture of those early days. More than any other period that has followed it was a time whose real character was typified in those who were not men and women, as we say, of action. In his Centennial Sermon in 1851, the Rev. Horace Bushnell pointed this out in what is really an address describing the life of the times, which for beauty of style, not less than for truth of observation and dignity of thought, is probably the finest address that has been delivered at any time in our town. The changing fashions, if the word can be used of Sermons, have not made The Age of Homespun one whit less striking than it was the morning the





Emmett Mason House, 1759. Site of Wolcott and Litchfield Library







SAMUEL SEYMOUR HOUSE, 1784-5. ST. MICHAEL'S RECTORY



great Divine delivered it. The same humanizing influence which he brought to his interpretation of the old Calvinistic theology and which made his preaching appear so advanced to the Hartford of eighty years ago will be found in his kindly, yet always just, analysis, of Colonial life as it existed in our town and those like it. The address is better history than the Historical Address delivered the preceding day; it is better history than ever we can hope to write in this book; and in reprinting it herewith we can only regret that it has been necessary somewhat to abbreviate it. The Sermon in full will be found on pages 107-130 of the Centennial Book published in the same year, 1851.

## CHAPTER VI.

THE AGE OF HOMESPUN.

BY HORACE BUSHNELL.

[*Extracts from a discourse, delivered at Litchfield, on the occasion of the County Centennial Celebration, 1851.*]

It has often occurred to others, I presume, as to me, to wish that, for once, it were possible, in some of our historic celebrations, to gather up the unwritten part, also, of the history celebrated; thus to make some fit account, of the private virtues and unrecorded struggles, in whose silent commonalty, we doubt not, are included all the deepest possibilities of social advancement and historic distinction.... I think you will agree with me, that nothing is more appropriate than to offer some fit remembrance of that which heaven only keeps in charge, the unhistoric deeds of common life, and the silent, undistinguished good whose names are written only in heaven. In this view, I propose a discourse on the words of King Lemuel's mother:—

PROV. 31: 28. "*Her children rise up and call her blessed*".

This Lemuel, who is called a King, is supposed by some to have been a Chaldee chief, or head of a clan; a kind of Arcadian prince, like Job and Jethro. And this last chapter of the Proverbs is an Eastern poem, called a "prophecy", that versifies, in form, the advice which his honored and wise mother gave to her son. She dwells, in particular, on the ideal picture of a fine woman, such as he may fitly seek for his wife, or queen; drawing the picture, doubtless, in great part, from herself and her own practical character. "She layeth her hands to the spindle and her hands hold the distaff. She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are covered with scarlet. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She openeth her mouth in wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness". Omitting other points of the picture, she is a frugal, faithful, pious housewife; clothing her family in garments prepared by her industry, and the more beautiful honors of a well-kept, well-mannered house. She, therefore, it is, who makes the center of a happy domestic life, and becomes a mark of reverence to her children:—"Her children rise up and called her blessed".

A very homely and rather common picture, some of you may fancy, for a queen, or chief woman; but, as you view the subject more historically, it will become a picture even of dignity and

polite culture. The rudest and most primitive stage of society has its most remarkable distinction in the dress of skins; as in ancient Scythia, and in many other parts of the world, even at the present day. The preparing of fabrics, by spinning and weaving, marks a great social transition, or advance; one that was slowly made and is not even yet absolutely perfected. Accordingly, the art of spinning and weaving was, for long ages, looked upon as a kind of polite distinction; much as needle work is now. Thus, when Moses directed in the preparation of curtains for the Tabernacle, we are told that "all the women that were *wise-hearted* did spin with their hands". That is, that the accomplished ladies who understood this fine art, (as few of the women did), executed his order. Accordingly, it is represented that the most distinguished queens of the ancient time excelled in the art of spinning; and the poets sing of distaffs and looms, as the choicest symbols of princely women. If I rightly remember, it is even said of Augustus, himself, at the height of the Roman splendor, that he wore a robe that was made for him by Livia, his wife.

You perceive, in this manner, that Lemuel's mother has any but rustic ideas of what a wife should be. She describes, in fact, a lady of the highest accomplishments, whose harpsichord is the distaff, whose piano is the loom, and who is able thus, by the fine art she is mistress of, to make her husband conspicuous among the elders of the land. Still, you will understand that what we call the old spinning-wheel, a great factory improvement, was not invented till long ages after this; being, in fact, a comparatively modern, I believe a German or Saxon, improvement. The distaff, in the times of my text, was held in one hand or under one arm, and the spindle, hanging by the thread, was occasionally hit and twirled by the other. The weaving process was equally rude and simple.

These references to the domestic economy of the more ancient times, have started recollections, doubtless, in many of you, that are characteristic, in a similar way, of our own primitive history. You have remembered the wheel and the loom. You have recalled the fact, that our Litchfield County people down to a period comparatively recent, have been a people clothed in homespun fabrics—not wholly, or in all cases, but so generally that the exceptions may be fairly disregarded. In this fact I find my subject. As it is sometimes said that the history of iron is the history of the world, or the history of roads a true record, always, of commercial and social progress, so it has occurred to me that I may give the most effective and truest impression of Litchfield County, and especially of the unhistoric causes included in a true estimate of the century now passed, under this article of *homespun*; describing this first century as the Homespun Age of our people. The subject is homely, as it should be; but I think we shall find enough of dignity in it as we proceed, even to content our highest ambition; the more, that I do not propose to confine myself rigidly to the single matter of spinning and weaving, but to gather round this feature of domestic

life, taken as a symbol, or central type of expression, whatever is most characteristic in the living picture of the times we commemorate, and the simple, godly virtues, we delight to honor.

What we call History, considered as giving a record of notable events, or transactions, under names and dates, and so a really just and true exhibition of the causes that construct a social state, I conceive to be commonly very much of a fiction. True worth is, for the most part, unhistoric, and so of all the beneficent causes and powers included in the lives of simple worthy men: causes most efficient, as regards the well-being and public name of communities. They are such as flow in silence, like the great powers of nature. Indeed, we say of history, and say rightly, that it is a record of *e-vents*: that is, of turnings out, points where the silence is broken by something apparently not in the regular flow of common life; just as electricity, piercing the world in its silent equilibrium, holding all atoms to their places, and quickening even the life of our bodies, becomes historic only when it thunders; though it does nothing more, in its thunder, than simply to notify us, by so great a noise, of the breach of its connections and the disturbance of its silent work. Besides, in our historic pictures, we are obliged to sink particulars in generals and so to gather, under the names of a prominent few, what is really done by nameless multitudes. These, we say, led out the colonies; these raised up the states and communities; these fought the battles. And so we make a vicious inversion, not seldom, of the truth; representing as causes, those who, after all, are not so much causes as effects, not so much powers as instruments, in the occasions signalized by their names: caps only of foam, that roll conspicuous in the sun, lifted, still, by the deep underswell of waters hid from the eye.

Therefore, if you ask, who made this Litchfield County of ours, it will be no sufficient answer that you get, however instructive and useful, when you have gathered up the names that appear in our public records and recited the events that have found an honorable place in the history of the County, or the Republic. You must not go into the burial places, and look about only for the tall monuments and the titled names. It is not the starred epitaphs of the Doctors of Divinity, the Generals, the Judges, the Honorables, the Governors, or even the village notables called Esquires, that mark the springs of our successes and the sources of our distinction. These are rather effects than causes; the spinning wheels have done a great deal more than these. Around the honored few, here a Bellamy, or a Day, sleeping in the midst of his flock; here a Wolcott, or a Smith; an Allen, or a Tracy; a Reeve, or a Gould; all names of honor: round about these few, and others like them, are lying multitudes of worthy men and women, under their humbler monuments, or in graves that are hidden by the monumental green that loves to freshen over their forgotten resting place; and in these, the humble but good many, we are to say are the deepest, truest causes of our happy history. Here lie the sturdy kings of Homespun, who climbed



among these hills, with their axes, to cut away room for their cabins and for family prayers, and so for the good future to come. Here lie their sons, who foddered their cattle on the snows, and built stone fence while the corn was sprouting in the hills, getting ready, in that way, to send a boy or two to college. Here lie the good housewives, that made coats every year, like Hannah, for their children's bodies, and lined their memory with catechism. Here the millers, that took honest toll of the rye; the smiths and coopers, that superintended two hands and got a little revenue of honest bread and schooling from their small joint stock of two-handed investment. Here the district committees and school mistresses; the religious society founders and church deacons; and, withal, a great many sensible, wise-headed men, who read a weekly newspaper, loved George Washington and their country, and had never a thought of going to the General Assembly! These are the men and women who made Litchfield County. Who they are, by name, we cannot tell: no matter who they are: we should be none the wiser if we could name them; they themselves none the more honorable. Enough that they are the King Lemuels and their Queens, of the good old times gone by: kings and queens of Homespun, out of whom we draw our royal lineage.

I have spoken of the great advance in human society, indicated by a transition from the dress of skins to that of cloth—an advance of so great dignity, that spinning and weaving were looked upon as a kind of fine art, or polite accomplishment. Another advance, and one that is equally remarkable, is indicated by the transition from a dress of homespun to a dress of factory cloths, produced by machinery and obtained by the exchanges of commerce, at home or abroad. This transition we are now making, or rather, I should say, it is already so far made that the very terms, "*domestic manufacture*", have quite lost their meaning; being applied to that which is neither domestic, as being made in the house, nor manufacture, as being made by the hands. This transition from mother and daughter power to water and steam power is a great one, greater by far than many have as yet begun to conceive: one that is to carry with it a complete revolution of domestic life and social manners. If, in this transition, there is something to regret, there is more, I trust, to desire. If it carries away the old simplicity, it must also open higher possibilities of culture and social ornament. The principle danger is, that, in removing the rough necessities of the homespun age, it may take away, also, the severe virtues and the homely but deep and true piety by which, in their blessed fruits, as we are all here testifying, that age is so honorably distinguished. Be the issue what it may, good or bad, hopeful or unhopeful, it has come; it is already a fact, and the consequences must follow.

If our sons and daughters should assemble, a hundred years hence, to hold another celebration like this, they will scarcely be able to imagine the Arcadian pictures now so fresh in the memory of so many of us, though to the younger part already matters of

hearsay more than of personal knowledge or remembrance. Everything that was most distinctive of the old homespun mode of life will then have passed away. The spinning wheels of wool and flax, that used to buzz so familiarly in the childish ears of some of us, will be heard no more for ever: seen no more, in fact, save in the halls of the Antiquarian Societies, where the delicate daughters will be asking, what these strange machines are, and how they were made to go? The huge, hewn-timber looms, that used to occupy a room by themselves, in the farm houses, will be gone, cut up for cord wood, and their heavy thwack, beating up the woof, will be heard no more by the passer by; not even the Antiquarian Halls will find room to harbor a specimen. The long strips of linen, bleaching on the grass, and tended by a sturdy maiden, sprinkling them each hour from her water-can, under a broiling sun, thus to prepare the Sunday linen for her brothers and her own wedding outfit, will have disappeared, save as they return to fill a picture in some novel or ballad of the old time. The tables will be spread with some cunning, water-power Silesia not yet invented, or perchance some meaner fabric from the cotton mills. The heavy Sunday coats, that grew on sheep individually remembered, more comfortably carried in warm weather on the arm, and the specially fine-striped, blue and white pantaloons, of linen just from the loom, will no longer be conspicuous in processions of footmen going to meeting, but will have given place to showy carriages, filled with gentlemen with broadcloth, festooned with chains of California gold, and delicate ladies holding perfumed sun shades. The churches too, that used to be simple brown meeting houses, covered with rived clapboards of oak, will have come down, mostly, from the bleak hill tops, into the close villages and populous towns, that crowd the waterfalls and the railroads; and the old burial places, where the fathers sleep, will be left to their lonely altitude: token, shall we say, of an age that lived as much nearer to heaven and as much less under the world. The change will be complete. Would that we might raise some worthy monument to a state which is then to be so far passed by, so worthy, in all future time, to be held in all dearest reverence.

It may have seemed extravagant, or fantastic, to some of you, that I should think to give a character of the century now past, under the one article of homespun. It certainly is not the only, or in itself the chief article of distinction; and yet we shall find it to be a distinction that runs through all others, and gives a color to the whole economy of life and character, in the times of which we speak.

Thus, if the clothing is to be manufactured in the house, then flax will be grown in the plowed land, and sheep will be raised in the pasture, and the measure of the flax ground, and the number of the flock, will correspond with the measure of the home market, the number of the sons and daughters to be clothed, so that the agriculture out of doors will map the family in doors. Then as

there is no thought of obtaining the articles of clothing, or dress, by exchange; as there is little passing of money, and the habit of exchange is feebly developed, the family will be fed on home grown products, buckwheat, indian, rye, or whatever the soil will yield. And as carriages are a luxury introduced only with exchanges, the lads will be going back and forth to the mill on horseback, astride the fresh grists, to keep the mouths in supply. The meat market will be equally domestic, a kind of quarter-master slaughter and supply, laid up in the cellar, at fit times in the year. The daughters that, in factory days, would go abroad to join the female conscription of the cotton mill, will be kept in the home factory, or in that of some other family, and so in the retreats of domestic life. And so it will be seen, that a form of life which includes almost every point of economy, centers round the article of homespun dress, and is by that determined. Given the fact that the people spin their own dress, and you have in that fact a whole volume of characteristics. They may be shepherds dwelling in tents, or they may build them fixed habitations, but the distinction given will show them to be a people who are not in trade, whose life centers in the family, home-bred in their manners, primitive and simple in their character, inflexible in their piety, hospitable without show, intelligent without refinement. And so it will be seen that our homespun fathers and mothers made a Puritan Arcadia among these hills, answering to the picture which Polibius, himself an Arcadian, gave of his countrymen, when he said that they had, "throughout Greece, a high and honorable reputation; not only on account of their hospitality to strangers, and their benevolence towards all men, but especially on account of their piety towards the Divine Being".

Thus, if we speak of what, in the polite world is called society, our homespun age had just none of it: and perhaps the more of society for that reason, because what they had was separate from all the polite fictions and empty conventionalities of the world. I speak not here of the rude and promiscuous gatherings connected so often with low and vulgar excesses; the military trainings, the huskings, the raisings commonly ended with a wrestling match. These were their dissipations, and perhaps they were about as good as any. The apple paring and quilting frolics, you may set down if you will, as the polka dances and masquerades of homespun. If they undertook a formal entertainment of any kind, it was commonly stiff and quite unsuccessful. But when some two queens of the spindle, specially fond of each other, instead of calling back and forth, with a card case in their hand, agreed to "join works", as it was called, for a week or two, in spinning, enlivening their talk by the rival buzz of their wheels and, when the two skeins were done, spending the rest of the day in such kind of recreation as pleased them, this to them was real society, and, so far, a good type of all the society they had. It was the society not of the Nominalists, but of the Realists; society in or after work; spontaneously gathered for the most part, in terms of elective affinity:



foot excursions of young people, or excursions on horse back, after the haying, to the tops of the neighboring mountains; boatings, on the river or the lake, by moon light, filling the wooded shores and the recesses of the hills with lively echoes; evening schools of sacred music, in which the music is not so much sacred as preparing to be; evening circles of young persons, falling together, as they imagine by accident, round some village queen of song, and chasing away the time in ballads and glees so much faster than they wish, that just such another accident is like to happen soon; neighbors called in to meet the minister and talk of both worlds together, and, if he is limber enough to suffer it, in such happy mixtures, that both are melted into one.

But most of all to be remembered, are those friendly circles, gathered so often round the winter's fire: not the stove, but the fire, the brightly blazing, hospitable fire. In the early dusk, the home circle is drawn more closely and quietly round it; but a good neighbor and his wife drop in shortly, from over the way, and the circle begins to spread. Next a few young folk from the other end of the village, entering in brisker mood, find as many more chairs set in as wedges into the periphery to receive them also. And then a friendly sleigh full of old and young, that have come down from the hill to spend an hour or two, spread the circle again, moving it still farther back from the fire; and the fire blazes just as much higher and more brightly, having a new stick added for every guest. There is no restraint, certainly no affectation of style. They tell stories, they laugh, they sing. They are serious and gay by turns, or the young folks go on with some play, while the fathers and mothers are discussing some hard point of theology in the minister's last sermon; or perhaps the great danger coming to sound morals from the multiplication of turnpikes and newspapers! Meantime, the good housewife brings out her choice stock of home grown exotics, gathered from three realms, doughnuts from the pantry, hickory nuts from the chamber, and the nicest, smoothest apples from the cellar; all which, including, I suppose I must add, the rather unpoetic beverage that gave its acid smack to the ancient hospitality, are discussed as freely, with no fear of consequences. And then, as the tall clock in the corner of the room ticks on majestically towards nine, the conversation takes, it may be, a little more serious turn, and it is suggested that a very happy evening may fitly be ended with a prayer. Whereupon the circle breaks up with a reverent, congratulative look on every face, which is itself the truest language of a social nature blessed in human fellowship.

Such, in general, was the society of the homespun age. It was not that society that puts one in connection with the great world of letters, or fashion, or power, raising as much the level of his consciousness and the scale and style of his action; but it was society back of the world, in the sacred retreats of natural feeling, truth and piety.



Descending from the topic of society in general to one more delicate, that of marriage and the tender passion and the domestic felicities of the homespun age, the main distinction here to be noted is, that marriages were commonly contracted at a much earlier period in life than now. Not because the habit or the time was more romantic or less prudential, but because a principal more primitive and closer to the beautiful simplicity of nature is yet in vogue, namely, that women are given by the Almighty, not so much to help their husbands spend a living, as to help them get one. Accordingly, the ministers were always very emphatic, as I remember, in their marriage ceremonies, on the ancient idea, that the woman was given to the man to be a help, meet for him. . . . What more beautiful embodiment is there, on this earth, of true sentiment, than the young wife who has given herself to a man in his weakness, to make him strong; to enter into the hard battle of his life and bear the brunt of it with him; to go down with him in disaster, if he fails, and cling to him for what he is; to rise with him, if he rises; and share a two-fold joy with him in the competence achieved; remembering, both of them, how it grew, by little and little, and by what methods of frugal industry it was nourished; having it also, not as his, but theirs, the reward of their common perseverance, and the token of their consolidated love. . . .

The close necessities of these more primitive days connected many homely incidents with marriage, which, however, rather heighten the picturesque simplicity than disparage the beauty of its attractions. The question of the outfit, the question of ways and means, the homely prudence pulling back the heroics of faith and passion only to make them more heroic at last; all these you will readily imagine.

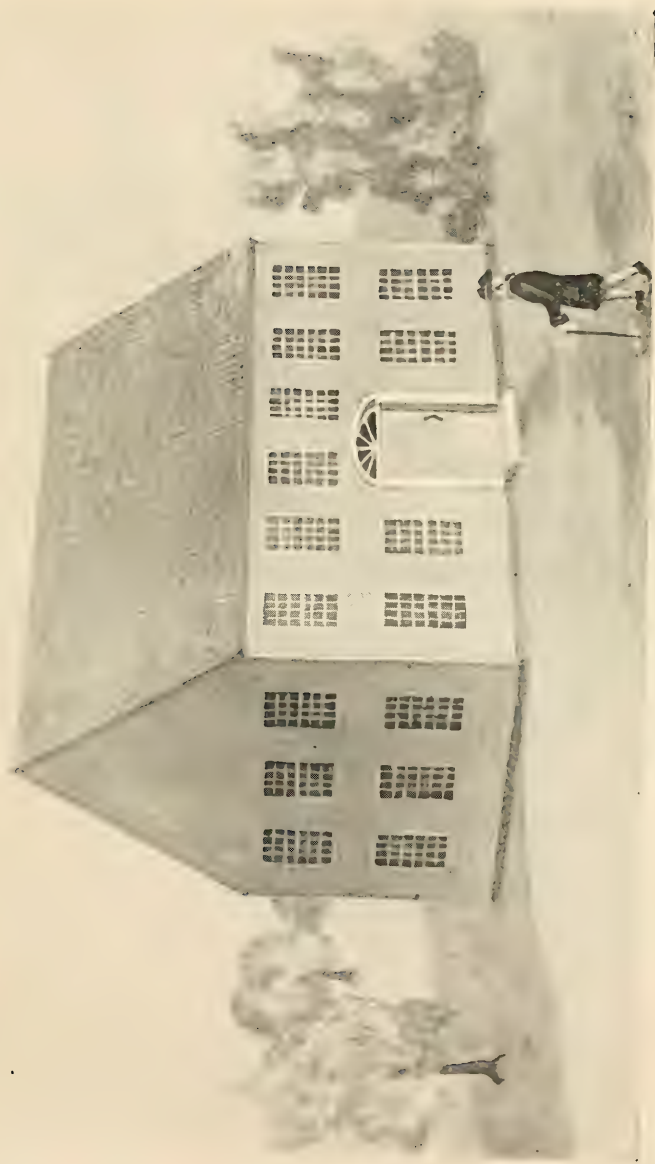
I suppose many of my audience may have heard of the distinguished Christian minister, still living in the embers of extreme old age, who came to the point, not of a flight in the winter, but of marriage, and partly by reason of the Revolution then in progress, could find no way to obtain the necessary wedding suit. Whereupon, the young woman's benevolent mother had some of her sheep sheared and sewed up in blankets to keep them from perishing with cold, that the much required felicity might be consummated.

But the schools,—we must not pass by these, if we are to form a truthful and sufficient picture of the homespun days. The school-master did not exactly go round the district to fit out the children's minds with learning, as the shoe-maker often did to fit their feet with shoes, or the tailors to measure and cut for their bodies; but, to come as near it as possible, he boarded round (a custom not yet gone by), and the wood for the common fire was supplied in a way equally primitive, by contribution of loads from the several families, according to their several quantities of childhood. The children were all clothed alike in homespun; and the only signs of aristocracy were, that some were clean and some a degree less so, some in fine white and striped linen, some in brown tow crash; and, in particular,

as I remember, with a certain feeling of quality I do not like to express, the good fathers of some testified the opinion they had of their children by bringing fine round loads of hickory wood to warm them, while some others, I regret to say, brought only scanty, scraggy, ill-looking heaps of green oak, white birch, and hemlock. Indeed, about all the bickerings of quality among the children, centered in the quality of the wood pile. There was no complaint in those days of the want of ventilation; for the large open fireplace held a considerable fraction of a cord of wood, and the windows took in just enough air to supply the combustion. Besides, the bigger lads were occasionally ventilated, by being sent out to cut wood enough to keep the fire in action. The seats were made of the outer slabs from the saw-mill, supported by slant legs driven into and a proper distance through augur holes, and plained smooth on the top by the rather tardy process of friction. But the spelling went on bravely, and we ciphered away again and again, always till we got through Loss and Gain. The more advanced of us too made light work of Lindley Murray, and went on to the parsing, finally, of the extracts from Shakespeare and Milton, till some of us began to think we had mastered their tough sentences in a more consequential sense of the term than was exactly true. . . .

Passing from the school to the church, or rather I should say to the meeting house, (good translation, whether meant or not, of what is older and more venerable than *church*, namely *synagogue*), here again you meet the picture of a sturdy homespun worship. Probably it stands on some hill, midway between three or four valleys, whither the tribes go up to worship, and when the snow-drifts are deepest go literally from strength to strength. There is no furnace or stove, save the foot-stoves that are filled from the fires of the neighboring houses, and brought in partly as a rather formal compliment to the delicacy of the tender sex, and sometimes because they are really wanted. The dress of the assembly is mostly homespun, indicating only slight distinctions of quality in the worshippers. They are seated according to age, the old king Lemuels and their queens in the front near the pulpit, and the younger Lemuels farther back, enclosed in pews, sitting back to back, impounded, all, for deep thought and spiritual digestion; only the deacons, sitting close under the pulpit, by themselves, to receive, as their distinctive honor, the more perpendicular droppings of the word. Clean round the front of the gallery is drawn a single row of choir, headed by the key-pipe, in the center. The pulpit is overhung by an august wooden canopy, called a sounding board: study general of course and first lesson of mystery to the eyes of the children, until what time their ears are opened to understand the spoken mysteries.

There is no affectation of seriousness in the assembly, no mannerism of worship; some would say too little of the manner of worship. They think of nothing in fact save what meets their intelligence and enters into them by that method. They appear like men who have



THE FIRST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1749  
From a Drawing by Chas. T. Payne









REV. TRUMAN MARSH

a digestion for strong meat, and have no conception that trifles more delicate can be of any account to feed the system. Nothing is dull that has the matter in it, nothing long that has not exhausted the matter. If the minister speaks in his great coat and thick gloves or mittens, if the howling blasts of winter blow in across the assembly fresh streams of ventilation that move the hair upon their heads, they are none the less content, if only he gives them good strong exercise. Under their hard and, as some would say, stolid faces, great thoughts are brewing, and these keep them warm. Free will, fixed fate, fore-knowledge absolute, trinity, redemption, special grace, eternity: give them anything high enough, and the tough muscles of their inward man will be climbing sturdily into it; and if they go away having something to think of, they have had a good day. A perceptible glow will kindle in their hard faces, only when some one of the chief apostles, a Day, a Smith, or a Bellamy, has come to lead them up some higher pinnacle of thought, or pile upon their sturdy mind some heavier weight of argument: fainting never under any weight, even that which, to the foreign critics of the discourses preached by them and others of their day, it seems impossible for any, the most cultivated audience in the world, to have supported. Oh, these royal men of homespun, how great a thing to them was religion! The district school was there, the great Bellamy is here, among the highest peaks and solitudes of divine government, and between is close living and hard work, and they are kings alike in all!

True there was a rigor in their piety, a want of gentle feeling; their Christian graces were cast-iron shapes, answering with a hard metallic ring, but they stood the rough wear of life none the less durably for the excessive hardness of their temperament, kept their families and communities none the less truly, though it may be less benignly, under the sense of God and religion. If we find something to modify, or soften, in their over-rigid notions of Christian living, it is yet something to know that what we are they have made us, and that, when we have done better for the ages that come after us, we shall have a more certain right to blame their austerities.

View them as we may, there is yet, and always will be, something magnificent, in their stern, practical fidelity to their principles. ...

Regarding now, the homespun age as represented in these pictures of the social and religious life, we need, in order to a full understanding, or conception of the powers and the possibilities of success embodied in it, to go a step farther; to descend into the practical struggle of common life, and see how the muscle of energy and victory is developed, under its close necessities.

The sons and daughters grew up, all, as you will perceive, in the closest habits of industry. The keen jockey way of whittling out a living by small bargains sharply turned, which many suppose to be an essential characteristic of the Yankee race is yet no proper

inbred distinction, but only a casual result, or incident, that pertains to the transition period between the small, stringent way of life in the previous times of home-production, and the new age of trade. In these olden times, these genuine days of homespun, they supposed, in their simplicity, that thrift represented work, and looked about seldom for any more delicate or sharper way of getting on. They did not call a man's property his *fortune*, but they spoke of one or another as being *worth* so much; conceiving that he had it laid up as the reward or fruit of his deservings. The house was a factory on the farm, the farm a grower and producer for the house. The exchanges went on briskly enough but required neither money nor trade. No affectation of polite living, no languishing airs of delicacy and softness in doors, had begun to make the fathers and sons impatient of hard work out of doors, and set them at contriving some easier and more plausible way of living. Their very dress represented work, and they went out as men whom the wives and daughters had dressed for work; facing all weather, cold and hot, wet and dry, wrestling with the plow on the stony-sided hills, digging out the rocks by hard lifting and a good many very practical experiments in mechanics, dressing the flax, threshing the rye, dragging home in the deep snows the great wood pile of the year's consumption; and then, when the day is ended, having no loose money to spend in taverns, taking their recreation, all together, in reading, or singing, or happy talk, or silent looking in the fire, and finally in sleep, to rise again, with the sun, and pray over the family Bible for just such another good day as the last. And so they lived, working out, each year, a little advance of thrift, just within the line of comfort.

The picture still holds, in part, though greatly modified by the softened manner of indoor life, and the multiplied agencies of emigration, travel, trade and machinery. It is, on the whole, a hard and over-severe picture, and yet a picture that embodies the highest points of merit, connects the noblest results of character. Out of it, in one view, come all the successes we commemorate on this festive occasion.

No mode of life was ever more expensive; it was life, at the expense of labor too stringent to allow the highest culture and the most proper enjoyment. Even the ~~dross~~ dress of it was more expensive than we shall ever see again. Still it was a life of honesty, and simple content, and sturdy victory. Immoralities, that rot down the vigor and humble the consciousness of families, were as much less frequent, as they had less thought of adventure, less to do with travel, and trade, and money, and were closer to nature and the simple life of home.

If they were sometime drudged by their over-intense labor, still they were kept by it in a generally rugged state, both of body and mind. They kept a good digestion, which is itself no small part of a character. The mothers spent their nervous impulse on their muscles, and had so much less need of keeping down the excess, or



calming the unspent lightning, by doses of anodyne. In the play of the wheel they spent fibre too, within, and in the weaving, wove it close and firm. Be it true as it may, that the mothers of the homespun age had a severe limit on their culture and accomplishments. Be it true that we demand a delicacy and elegance of manners impossible to them, under the rugged necessities they bore. Still there is, after all, something very respectable in good health, and a great many graces play in its look that we love to study, even if there be a little of "perdurable toughness" in their charms. How much is there, too, in the sublime motherhood of health! Hence come, not always, I know, but oftenest, the heroes and the great minds gifted with volume and power, and balanced for the manly virtues of truth, courage, persistency, and all sorts of victory. It was also a great point, in this homespun mode of life, that it imparted exactly what many speak of only with contempt, a closely girded habit of economy. Harnessed, all together, into the producing process, young and old, male and female, from the boy that rode the plough-horse to the grandmother, knitting under her spectacles, they had no conception of squandering lightly what they had all been at work, thread by thread, and grain by grain, to produce. They knew too exactly what everything cost, even small things, not to husband them carefully. Men of patrimony in the great world, therefore, noticing their small way in trade, or expenditure, are ready, as we often see, to charge them with meanness, simply because they knew things only in a small way; or, what is not far different, because they were too simple and rustic, to have any conception of the big operations, by which other men are wont to get their money without earning it, and lavish the more freely because it was not earned. Still this knowing life only in the small, it will be found, is really anything but meanness.

Probably enough the man who is heard threshing in his barn of a winter evening by the light of a lantern, (I knew such an example), will be seen driving his team next day, the coldest day of the year, through the deep snow to a distant wood lot, to draw a load for a present to his minister. So the housewife that higgles for a half hour with the merchant over some small trade, is yet one that will keep watch, not unlikely, when the school master, boarding round the district, comes to some hard quarter, and commence asking him to dinner, then to tea, then to stay over night, and literally boarding him, till the hard quarter is passed. Who now, in the great world of money, will do, not to say the same, as much, proportionally as much, in any of the pure hospitalities of life?

Besides, what sufficiently disproves any real meanness, it will be found that children brought up in this way to know things in the small, what they cost, and what is their value, have in just that fact one of the best securities of character and most certain elements of power and success in life; because they expect to get on by small advances followed up and saved by others, not by sudden leaps of fortune that despise the slow but surer methods of industry and

merit. When the hard, wiry-looking patriarch of homespun, for example, sets out for Hartford, or Bridgeport, to exchange the little surplus of his year's production, carrying his provision with him and the fodder of his team, and taking his boy along to show him the great world, you may laugh at the simplicity, or pity, if you will, the sordid look of the picture; but, five or ten years hence, this boy will like enough be found in College, digging out the cent's worth of his father's money in hard study; and some twenty years later he will be returning in his honors, as the celebrated Judge, or Governor, or Senator and public orator, from some one of the great States of the Republic, to bless the sight once more of that venerated pair who shaped his beginnings and planted the small seeds of his future success. Small seeds, you may have thought, of meanness; but now they have grown up and blossomed into a large minded life, a generous public devotion, and a free benevolence to mankind.

And just here, I am persuaded, is the secret, in no small degree, of the very peculiar success that has distinguished the sons of Connecticut and, not least, those of Litchfield County, in their migration to other States. It is because they have gone out in the wise economy of a simple, homespun training, expecting to get on in the world by merit and patience, and by a careful husbanding of small advances; secured in their virtue by just that which makes their perseverance successful. For the men who see the great in the small and go on to build the great by small increments, will commonly have an exact conscience too that beholds great principles in small things, and so will form a character of integrity, before both God and man, as solid and massive as the outward successes they conquer. ....

I have wished, in particular, to bring out an impression of the unrecorded history of the times gone by. We must not think that the great men have made the history. Rather it is the history that has made the men. It is the homespun many, the simple Christian men and women of the century gone by, who bore their life struggle faithfully, in these valleys and among these hills, and who now are sleeping in the untitled graves of Christian worth and piety. These are they whom we are most especially to honor, and it is good for us all to see and know, in their example, how nobly fruitful and beneficent that virtue may be, which is too common to be distinguished, and is thought of only as the worth of unhistoric men. Worth indeed it is, that worth which, being common, is the substructure and the prime condition of a happy, social state, and of all the honors that dignify its history: worth, not of men only, but quite as much of women; for you have seen, at every turn of my subject, how the age gone by receives a distinctive character from the queens of the distaff and the loom, and their princely motherhood. Let no woman imagine that she is without consequence, or motive to excellence, because she is not conspicuous, Oh, it is the greatness of woman that she is so much like the great powers

of nature, back of the noise and clatter of the world's affairs, tempering all things with her benign influence only the more certainly because of her silence, greatest in her beneficence because most remote from ambition, most forgetful of herself and fame; a better nature in the world that only waits to bless it, and refuses to be known save in the successes of others, whom she makes conspicuous; satisfied most, in the honors that come not to her, that "Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land!"...

Men and women of Litchfield County, such has been the past; a good and honorable past! We give it over to you: the future is with you. It must, we know be different, and it will be what you make it. Be faithful to the sacred trust God is this day placing in your hands. One thing, at least, I hope; that, in these illustrations I have made some just impression on you all of the dignity of work. How magnificent an honor it is, for the times gone by, that when so many schemes are on foot, as now, to raise the weak; when the friends of the dejected classes of the world are proposing even to reorganize society itself for their benefit, trying to humanize punishments, to kindle hope in disability, and nurse depravity into a condition of comfort, (a distinction how magnificent!), that our fathers and mothers of the century passed had, in truth, no dejected classes, no disability, only here and there a drone of idleness, or a sporadic case of vice and poverty; excelling, in the picture of social comfort and well-being actually realized, the most romantic visions of our new seers. They want a reorganization of society!—something better than the Christian gospel and the Christian family state!—some community in hollow-square, to protect them and coax them up into a life of respect, and help them to be men! No, they did not even so much as want the patronage of a bank of savings to encourage them and take the wardship of their cause. They knew how to make their money, and how to invest it, and take care of it, and make it productive; how to build, and plant, and make sterility fruitful, and conquer all the hard weather of life. Their producing process took everything at a disadvantage; for they had no capital, no machinery, no distribution of labor, nothing but wild forest and rock; but they had metal enough in their character to conquer their defects of outfit and advantage. They sucked honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock. Nay, they even seemed to want something a little harder than nature in her softer moods could yield them. Their ideal of a Goshen they sought out, not in the rich alluvion of some fertile Nile, but upon the crest of the world, somewhere between the second and third heaven where Providence itself grows cold, and there, making warmth by their exercise and their prayers, they prepared a happier state of competence and wealth, than the Goshen of the sunny Nile ever saw. Your condition will hereafter be softened, and your comforts multiplied. Let your culture be as much advanced. But let no delicate spirit that despises work, grow up in your sons and daughters. Make these rocky hills smoothe their faces and smile under your industry. Let

no absurd ambition tempt you to imitate the manners of the great world of fashion and rob you thus of the respect and dignity that pertain to manners properly your own. Maintain, above all, your religious exactness. Think what is true, and then respect yourselves in living exactly what you think. Fear God and keep His commandments, as your godly fathers and mothers did before you, and found, as we have seen, to be the beginning of wisdom. As their graves are with you, so be that faith in God, which ennobled their lives and glorified their death, an inheritance in you, and a legacy transmitted by you to your children.



## CHAPTER VII.

### LITCHFIELD IN THE REVOLUTION.

BY DOROTHY BULL.

The hardy life of the Age of Homespun and the severe discipline of the Colonial Wars, prepared the people morally and physically for the severer test to come, in which the new nation "conceived in liberty" was to be born. Out of that background of vigorous and earnest life came the great figures of the founders of our nation and the sturdy army of citizen soldiers, who were to preserve and renew the fine tradition of their race.

Let us picture our village at the close of the French War, with its streets still unkempt, its houses more widely scattered than now, its people vigorously engaged in the occupations of the pioneer farmer, and cherishing, no doubt, new hopes of peace and prosperity. Already the little town had taken its place in the life of the Colony as the County Seat of a new County. The first Court House and Jail were built, and Oliver Wolcott, then a young man in the middle thirties, had taken up his duties as High Sheriff and built his house on South Street. Elisha Sheldon had come from Lyme, and after a service of seven years as Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the county, had been elected to the Connecticut Legislature as a member of the Upper House. Jedediah Strong had graduated from Yale, and was shortly to begin his career, as "pettifogger and politician". Bezaleel Beebe had returned, at the age of twenty-one, from four years' service in the Colonial wars, and settled on the Beebe homestead, north of Bantam Lake, with his young wife Elizabeth Marsh, the daughter of Captain John Marsh. Young Judah Champion had begun ten years before, his energetic pastorate of the First Society of the Congregational Church, and the new Meeting House on the Green had just been finished. Into this atmosphere of industry and peace came in 1765 the first rumble of the approaching storm.

Between Great Britain and her colonies stretched three thousand miles of "unplumbed, salt, estranging sea". Between the minds of the British Government and of the settlers of the New World lay unmeasured spaces of "unplumbed, salt, estranging thought". The Home Government was concerned chiefly with its own credit, with the low state of the exchequer after the recent wars, and with dreams of empire. The Stamp Act seemed a simple solution of the first two questions, and a reasonable assistance in the third. The Colonies were prospering. They were protected by the Crown. Why should they not share the expenses of the Crown? The Colo-

nies thought otherwise. They had borne their full share of the successive Colonial Wars and the burden had not been a light one, to men still engaged in the task of subduing the wilderness. But, aside from the hardship of the tax itself, they felt that it was potent with danger to the liberties so hardly acquired and cherished through the changing fortunes of Colonial history. These liberties they felt to be their rightful heritage as Englishmen. They would not relinquish them. Kilbourne tells us p. 82, of the instant indignation aroused by the Stamp Act in this State and town. "The Legislature of Connecticut", he says, "protested against it, and finally agreed upon an address to parliament, which was sent to the colonial agent in London, with instructions 'firmly to insist on the exclusive right of the colonies to tax themselves'. The people everywhere were excited and the measure was freely discussed and boldly denounced at the corners of the streets, in popular assemblies, and in town meetings. The more resolute and reckless of the populace formed themselves into secret organizations called '*The Sons of Liberty*', with the design of preventing the use of the stamped paper by a summary process if necessary. In this town there was probably no difference of opinion on the main question at issue. On matters of minor importance the people did not always agree. The *Connecticut Courant* of February 10th, 1766, contains a communication dated at Litchfield on the 1st of February of that year, which is as follows:

'At the desire of several of the Towns of this County, by their Agents chosen and sent here for that Purpose, a Meeting was called of the Free-born Sons of Liberty, to meet at the Court-House in this Town; and being assembled to the Number of about forty or fifty Persons—proceeded upon the Business for which they met. And notwithstanding the great Opposition they met with, from Colonel E——r M——h and one S——n S——e, (whereby the Meeting was much hindered,) yet they came to the Choice of five Gentlemen, who were to act as Agents, and are to join the Gentlemen from the other Towns in the County, who are to meet here, at a general County Meeting, to be held on the second Tuesday of February, 1766, at ten o'clock in the forenoon; when it is expected they will come to such Resolves as they shall think most Conducive to prevent the Thing we fear from ever taking Place among us. The Meeting would have been conducted with the utmost good Agreement and Dispatch, had it not been for the Gentlemen mentioned above, who employed all their Power to render it abortive, not only by consuming the Time in long and needless Speeches, (wherein Mr. M——h especially discovered to all present, an inexhaustible Fund of Knowledge, by several new-coined Words, unknown in the English Language before,) but they also opposed by their Votes almost every Motion that was made to forward it."

Although the difference of opinion here recorded was probably over minor matters,—very possibly a question of policy rather than principle,—it was undoubtedly a fore-runner of those more serious differences which were to continue throughout the war, with all the intensity and bitterness consequent to civil strife. "There were ... in this town", says Kilbourne, p. 114, "as elsewhere throughout the

land—honorable, influential and conscientious men—who, while they openly disapproved of many acts of the parliament were yet warmly attached to the royal cause. They looked upon *revolution* as not only treason to their sovereign, but predestined to be ruinous to all who might engage in it; and they chose to suffer what they regarded as only temporary evils, rather than rush into the vortex of war for redress". Among these people the Episcopalians were peculiarly bound by every tie of affection and necessity to the mother country. Litchfield was still a "missionary station". The Rector of St. Michael's received a portion of his salary directly from the "Venerable Society in England for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts". For the members of the Church of England, "independence not only involved a political separation from Great Britain, but a severance of an ecclesiastical bond of union which they had long regarded as indispensable to their prosperity if not to their very existence as a church". (Kilbourne, p. 115). Many of them therefore were opposed to the Revolution and feeling ran high. The incident of the stoning of St. Michael's by revolutionary troops is described elsewhere. In the bitter alchemy of war the elements of national character were to be divided and fused anew. No tie could escape the fire. "Friends, neighbors, and even households became divided and estranged". (Kilbourne, p. 116).

In 1766, however, only the most far-seeing could have dreamed of revolution. Only three years before, Benjamin Franklin, in a pamphlet on the wisdom of retaining Canada rather than Guadeloupe as a prize of war, had assured the people of Great Britain that the colonies would never "unite against their own nation ... which 'tis well known they all love much more than they love one another". (Eve of the Revolution. Becker, p. 5). In the *Connecticut Courant* of February 24th, 1766, appears the record of that Litchfield County Meeting heralded in the issue of the 10th. "In their declaration", says Kilbourne, p. 83, "the purest sentiments of patriotism and loyalty, are blended with a love of good order and a regard for the supremacy of the law, which are remarkable for those times. The people of Litchfield were no friends of mob-law, even when mobs were fashionable elsewhere. *Separation* from the mother-country, was a subject which had not then been breathed audibly, even if it had been thought of by the most zealous patriot". The "declarations" are given in full by Kilbourne, pp. 83-86. They begin with the following preamble, in which it is interesting to note that the people rest their case upon their heritage as Englishmen, "the unalterable basis of the British Constitution", in which they had so just a pride. Preamble:

"At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of almost all the Towns in Litchfield County, convened by their Agents in Litchfield on the second Tuesday in February 1766, for the Purpose of giving the clearest Manifestation of their fixed and most ardent Desire to preserve, as far as in them lies, those inherent Rights and Privileges which essentially belong to them as a Free People, and which are founded upon the unalterable Basis of the British

Constitution, and have been confirmed by the most solemn Sanctions—and of their readiness to promote (according to their Ability) the public Peace and Happiness, which have been greatly disturbed by the most alarming Infringements upon their Rights the following Sentiments were unanimously agreed in”.

The declaration here continues through seven articles to emphasize the unconstitutionality of the Stamp Act, and while expressing most faithful allegiance to the Crown, declares (Article II):

“That they conceive to keep up in their brightest View the first Principles and Origins of the English Government and strictly to adhere to the primary Institutions of it, is the only sure Way to preserve the same, and consequently the Prerogative of the Crown, and the Civil Liberties of the Subject, inviolate”.

They add also (Article VI):

“That God made Mankind free, (as being essential to their Happiness) and as, by His Blessing the Advantages of English Liberty have been handed down to them from their most virtuous and loyal Ancestors, so they will endeavor, by all reasonable Ways and Means within their Power, uprightly to preserve and faithfully to transmit the same to their Posterity”.

From this premise they continue to Article IX:

“That if any Stamped Papers shall be imported into any Part of this Colony (which they most cordially wish might never be,) they hope the speediest public Notice thereof may be given, that the same may be preserved UNTOUCHED for His Majesty”.

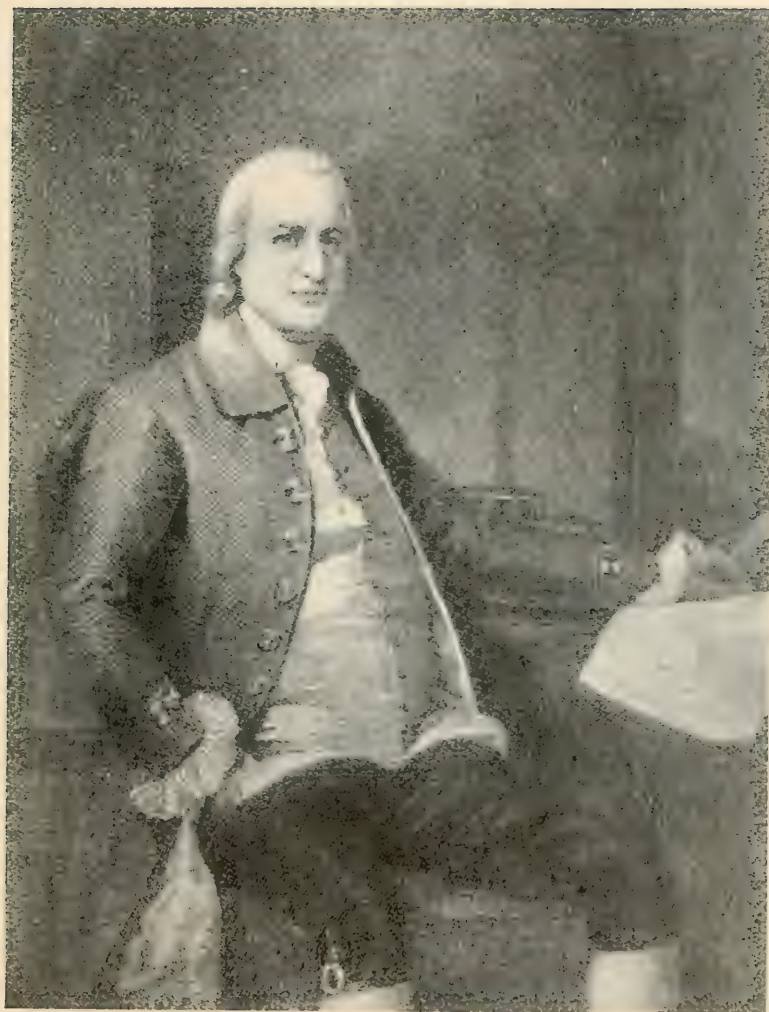
They further warn the authorities that if anyone has represented the people of the Colony as acquiescing in the Act in question, such representation has been made either through extreme ignorance or deliberate malice. The strength and gravity of purpose of the best spirit of the time is manifest in this document, together with a moderation and sobriety, which as Kilbourne has noted, is truly remarkable. Thus in Article XI, we find:

“That they will never suffer any Jealousies to arise in their Minds, that any Person in this Colony is unfriendly to its Civil Liberties, except upon the fullest, clearest, and most undeniable Evidence”.

and in Article XIII:

“That whereas some very ignorant or dissolute Persons may, in this time of Perplexity, be disposed to commit Outrages against the Persons or Property of others, or to treat with Disrespect and Insult the civil Authority of this Colony; They do therefore, hereby solemnly declare, that Nothing (except a Privation of their Liberties,) could or ought to fill their Minds with a deeper and more fixed Resentment than such Conduct—and that they will always be ready and willing to assist and support, to the utmost of their Ability, the public Magistrates, in preserving, in the greatest Purity, the Peace and good Order of the Public”.





GOVERNOR OLIVER WOLCOTT







THE LATE WILLIAM  
 Known in the genealogy as Corrine Collins -  
 1840



The Stamp Act was repealed in this year, but matters were in no wise mended. Continued imposts were made on articles imported from England; indignation in the Colonies increased; and finally a merchant's agreement was made, known as "the non-importation agreement". This, however, proved to be something of a boomerang, and was "shamefully violated", says Kilbourne, p. 86, by the merchants of New York. Thereupon Connecticut summoned a "General Convention of Delegates from all the towns in the Colony", to be held in New Haven on September 13th, 1770, "to take into consideration the perilous condition of the country, to provide for the growth and spread of home manufactures, and to devise more thorough means of carrying out the non-importation agreement". To this Convention Captain John Osborn and Jedediah Strong were sent as Delegates from Litchfield by vote of a town meeting.

About this time also, the Connecticut Legislature took steps to improve the condition of the militia of the Colony; "why", says Kilbourne, p. 87, "they were scarcely themselves aware". Officers who had served with ability in the French War, now received advance commissions. Among these were Oliver Wolcott of Litchfield, "who had commanded a company in the north in 1748, and was now commissioned as Colonel; and Ebenezer Gay, a resident of Sharon but a native of this town, who was raised to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel". (Kilbourne, p. 87.) Kilbourne further remarks in this connection: "These officers, by long service with the commanders in the Standing Army of England, had learned whatever was worth knowing in their system of military tactics, while they had failed to learn their inefficiency, procrastination, and punctilious regard for etiquette". How just an estimate this is of the British officer of the period, it is difficult to judge. There is no doubt that during the French Wars the troops frequently suffered from the stupidity of their officers; while Lord Howe and others in the Revolution often failed to follow up their successes. The pernicious practice of selling commissions must have worked havoc in any army. Nevertheless, some able men were undoubtedly attracted to military life, and it is no derogation of our own army to assume that the forces to which it was opposed for seven years, were in many cases officered by men of intelligence, energy and devotion.

Stupidity in high places, however, was to work its inevitable mischief in British-American relations. All the indignation of the Colonists, all reasonable remonstrance of the wiser heads on both sides of the Atlantic, failed to break down the stubborn complacency of the King and his ill-chosen advisors. Oppressive measures continued. Resistance increased in proportion. Shortly after the "Boston Tea Party", and the subsequent blockade of Boston Harbor, we find the inhabitants of Litchfield issuing the following document, which Woodruff, p. 32, credits to Oliver Wolcott.

"The Inhabitants of Litchfield, in legal Town Meeting assembled, on the 17th day of August, A. D. 1774, taking into consideration the Distress to

which the Poor of the Town of Boston may likely be reduced by the operation of an Act of the British Parliament for Blocking up their Port, and deeply commiserating the unhappiness of a brave and loyal People, who are thus eminently suffering in a General Cause, for Vindicating what every sensible virtuous American considers an essential Right of this Country, think it is their indispensable Duty to afford their unhappy distressed brethren of said Town of Boston, all reasonable Aid and Support. And this they are the more readily induced to, not only as the Inhabitants of said Town are thus severely condemned for their reluctance to submit to an arbitrary, an unconsented to, and consequently unconstitutional Taxation, but the whole of the great and loyal Province of the Massachusetts Bay have been *condemned unheard*, in the loss of their Charter Privileges, by the heretofore unknown and unheard of Exertions of Parliamentary Power, which they conceive is a Power claimed and exercised in such a manner as cannot fail of striking every unprejudiced mind with Horror and Amazement, as being subversive of all those inherent, essential and constitutional Rights, Liberties and Privileges which the good people of this Colony have ever held sacred, and even dearer than Life itself, nor ever can wish to survive; not only every idea of Property, but every Emolument of civil Life, being thereby rendered precarious and uncertain.

"In full confidence, therefore, that no Degree of Evil thus inflicted on said Town and Province, will ever induce them to give up, or betray their own and the American Constitutional Rights and Privileges, especially as they cannot but entertain the most pleasing Expectations that the Committees of the several North American Provinces, who are soon to meet at Philadelphia, will in their wisdom be able to point out a Method of Conduct effectual for obtaining Redress of those grievances—a Method to which (when once agreed upon by said Committee) this Town will look upon it their duty strictly to attend. And in the Mean Time, earnestly recommend that Subscriptions be forthwith opened in this Town, under the care of Reuben Smith, Esq. Capt. Lynde Lord, and Mr. William Stanton, who are hereby appointed a Committee to receive and forward to the Selectmen of Boston, for the use of the Poor in that Place, all such Donations as shall be thereupon made for that Purpose; as also to correspond with the Committee of Correspondence there or elsewhere, as there may be Occasion.

"We also take this Opportunity publicly to return our Thanks to the members of the Honorable House of Representatives of this Colony, for their patriotic and loyal Resolutions, passed and published in the last Assembly on the Occasion, and order them to be entered at large on the public Records of this Town, that succeeding Ages may be faithfully furnished with authentic Credentials of our inflexible attachment to those inestimable Privileges which We and every honest American glory in esteeming our unalienable Birthright and Inheritance".

Four months later, we find the Town appointing a Committee "for the Purposes mentioned in the Eleventh Article of the Association Agreement of the Grand Continental Congress in Philadelphia, 5th of September last, and Approved, Adopted, and Recommended by the General Assembly of this Colony at their session in October last".

Kilbourne explains, p. 91, that the "Article" herein referred to, provides for "Committees of Inspection" in each city and town,

"whose business it shall be attentively to observe the conduct of all persons touching this Association; and when it shall be made to appear that any person has violated its articles, they are to cause their names to be published in the Gazette, to the end that all such foes to the rights of British America may be publicly known and universally contemned as the enemies of American Liberty, and thenceforth we break off all dealings with him or her". Committees of Inspection were also appointed at the Town Meetings in 1775 and 1776.

In 1775 the storm broke. Early in this year, David Welch, whose house still stands near Milton on the Litchfield road, was in command of a company called into active service. In April he was commissioned as Major in Colonel Hinman's regiment. In this same month a lieutenant's commission was given to Bezaleel Beebe, whose four years service in the French War and rank of Ensign under Archibald McNeile, entitled him to consideration as a soldier of some experience. Fisher Gay of Farmington, a native of Litchfield, was among those commissioned in March by special session of the Legislature, receiving the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In May the country was stirred by the capture of Ticonderoga by Ethan Allen and his "Green Mountain Boys", that hardy band of pioneer adventurers, trained in the rough school of border warfare, in the boundary disputes of New York and New Hampshire. Allen was born in Litchfield, and this, Litchfield was now glad to remember, though his family had taken him at the age of two to the neighboring town of Cornwall, and there and in Sharon he passed his boyhood. Lieutenant Crampton who was with him at Ticonderoga and entered the fort at his side, was also a native of Litchfield, and lived here, Kilbourne tells us, p. 93, for a large part of his life. Ticonderoga, because of its position as a key to the northern waterways, was a place of considerable strategic importance and its capture was a triumph for the American arms. On the day following, the garrison at Crown Point, with all its military stores, was also surrendered to the Americans under Colonel Warner, a native of Roxbury in this county. In June came the news of Bunker Hill. At this time young Aaron Burr had been living in Litchfield for more than a year, at the house of his brother-in-law Tapping Reeve, reading history and absorbing all the passionate thought and feeling of the time. He now determined to enlist, and September found him serving as a private soldier in Arnold's remarkable expedition through the wilderness to Quebec. After enduring unimagined hardships of cold, privation and illness, and overcoming almost insurmountable obstacles in the unfriendly forests of the north, the expedition arrived near Quebec, diminished in numbers, depleted in strength, and bitterly in need of reinforcement. General Montgomery was at that time at a post beyond the British lines, waiting for the arrival of Arnold and his men. It was necessary to inform him of their dangerous situation. To do this a messenger must go through the enemy lines. Burr volunteered for this service, and



disguised as a priest, succeeded in fulfilling his mission, undetected. We hear of him later through a letter of Judge Reeve's, (quoted by Kilbourne, p. 93) as an aide to General Montgomery in the unfortunate attack on the city. "During this year also", says Kilbourne, rather quaintly, (the capitalization is his) "Jedediah Strong was appointed a Commissary to purchase Horses for the Army; and Oliver Wolcott was chosen a member of the continental congress".

While Litchfield men were serving abroad, the people at home were not idle. In his sermon on Judah Champion, the Reverend Frank J. Goodwin quotes an anecdote characteristic of the spirit of the time, and of that ardent patriot and preacher:

"One pleasant Sabbath morning, the congregation had gathered together and had just commenced the morning hymn, when through the still streets, there came the sharp clatter of horses hoofs—always so ominous at that time, of tidings from the army. As usual when the courier arrived in any town on the Sabbath he made straight for the 'meeting house'. Reaching the door, he dismounted, and flinging the bridle over the horse's neck, entered the building. The singing ceased, and every eye was turned on the stranger as he walked up the broad aisle and ascended the pulpit stairs. He handed Mr. Champion a paper, who, with a smile of triumph on his face, arose and read 'St. Johns is taken'. It must be remembered that this place (which was the key of Canada) had been besieged six weeks, till people began almost to despair of its ever being taken. The noble pastor, the moment he had finished the sentence, lifted his eyes to heaven and exclaimed: 'Thank God for victory'. The chorister, sitting opposite the pulpit in the gallery, clapped his hands and shouted: 'Amen and Amen!' For awhile the joy was unrestrained, but the pastor soon checked it by saying: 'There is something more to be heard.' He then read a lengthy communication, stating that the army was in a suffering condition. It was now the latter part of November, and there, on the borders of Canada, the winter was already setting in, and yet the troops were about to march for Quebec to undergo the rigors of a winter campaign. It described in vivid language their suffering condition. They were destitute of clothing, without shoes or stockings, and yet were ordered to traverse the frozen fields of the north.

"The touching description lost none of its pathos as read by the pastor and commented on by him at its close. When he had finished there was hardly a dry eye in the house. Especially the women were overcome with emotion. As soon as the congregation was dismissed, a few prominent ladies were seen to gather round the young pastor with eager countenances. They were evidently asking him some questions, and it was equally evident, from his benevolent smile and nodding head, that he was answering them satisfactorily. Soon they began to move rapidly among the other women that, in turn, gathered into groups in earnest conversation. After a little while they all dispersed to their homes. When the congregation assembled for afternoon service not a woman was in



the Church. The wives, mothers and maidens had laid aside their Sabbath apparel and drawn forth their spinning wheels, set in motion their looms, and brought out their knitting needles and hand cards, and the village suddenly became a hive of industry. On that usually still Puritan Sabbath afternoon there now rung out on every side the hum of the wheel and the click of the shuttle-sounds never before heard in Litchfield on the Sabbath day, and which contrasted strangely with those of prayer and praise in the adjoining sanctuary. Yet both believed that they were serving God. The women were working for those brave patriots who were about to march, destitute and barefoot, over the frozen ground to strike for freedom. Many years after, when a venerable old man, Mr. Champion was asked by his grand-daughter how he could approve such a desecration of the Sabbath. He turned on her a solemn look and replied simply: 'Mercy before sacrifice!'"

It is typical of the tragic embitterment of war as well as the sternness of the Puritan faith, that we are later to find this generous spirit engaged with all the ardor and eloquence of his nature in the famous imprecatory prayer against the enemy. It is, however, comforting to remember that, while theoretically the enemy was accursed and a just object of hate, in actual practice the fiery little pastor found him simply a man and a brother; and while he was with the army in the north, he cared as faithfully for the sick and wounded of the British Army as for our own. "Such was his zeal and self-sacrifice", Dr. Goodwin tells us, "that the British officers, as well as our own, returned him their warmest thanks".

The year of 1776, which was to be such an eventful one for the Colonies, began in Litchfield with the enlistment by Bezaleel Beebe, now a captain, of a company, under orders for the defense of New York. The news was received with great enthusiasm. Kilbourne tells us, p. 94, that one man when he heard it "started on a run for the Captain's headquarters, fearing the roll would be full before he could reach there", and that "Captain's Beebe's orders reached him on a Sunday, and the following Saturday, the company had been raised, armed and equipped, and were on their march toward Fairfield". We quote here the enlistment agreement given by Kilbourne, p. 94.

"We the Subscribers, being convinced of the Necessity of a body of Forces to defeat certain Wicked Purposes formed by the instruments of Ministerial Tyranny, do solemnly engage ourselves and enlist as Private Soldiers, in a Regiment to be Commanded by Colonel Andrew Ward, Jr., under the command of Major General Lee, for the Term of Eight Weeks at the utmost from the Day we March from Fairfield, which is the place of Rendezvous; the Honorable Major General Lee having given his Word and Honor that we shall not be Detained a single Day after said Term. Dated at Litchfield, 21st day of January, 1776".

The following list for appraisal, is also interesting as an example of the simplicity of military organization at that time.

Litchfield, 26th January, 1776

"We, being requested to apprise the Arms belonging to Capt. Bezaleel Beebe's Company, in Col. Andrew Ward's Regiment, going on an expedition to New York under the command of General Charles Lee—we accordingly apprized the same, being first duly sworn, viz.,

Elihu Harrison's Gun, Bayonet and Cartridge Box, in his own hands.  
(Figures omitted).

Roger N. Whittlesey's Gun in the hands of Briant Stoddard.

Joseph Sanford's Gun, Bayonet and Belt in his own hands.

Nathaniel Allen's Gun, Bayonet and Belt in his own hands.

Obed Stoddard's Gun, bayonet, Cartridge box and belt.

Joshua Smith's Gun in his own hands.

Zebulon Bissell's Gun in his own hands.

James Woodruff's Gun carried by Stephen Brown.

Phineas Goodwin's Gun, bayonet and belt.

Whiting Stanley's Gun carried by James Crampton.

Oliver Woodruff's Gun carried by himself.

Hezekiah Agard's Gun carried by John Lyman.

Jedediah Strong's Gun, bayonet and belt carried by Wm. Patterson.

Lieut. Jonathan Mason's Cartridge box.

Samuel Canfield's Gun carried by himself.

Noah Garnsey's Gun carried by T. Weed.

Sergt. Benjamin Bissell's Gun and Bayonet carried by himself.

Asa Osborn's Gun and Cartridge box carried by himself.

Jedediah Strong's Gun carried by Benjamin Taylor.

Jedediah Strong's Gun carried by Frederick Stanley.

Reuben Smith, Esq's Gun, Bayonet, Case and Belt, carried by Capt. Beebe.

Capt. John Osborn's Gun carried by Moses Taylor.

ABRAHAM BRADLEY,

THOMAS CATLIN,

OBED STODDER, Appraisers on Oath.

Stodder is probably a misprint or variant for Stoddard, as Obed Stoddard is one of the signers of the enlistment agreement.

The short term of enlistment was characteristic of the period, and made the conduct of the war immeasurably more difficult. In an address before the Litchfield Historical Society, on the occasion of its semi-centennial, William Webster Ellsworth quotes in this connection, General Washington's remarks at the time of the siege of Boston: "It is not in the page of history, to furnish a case like ours; to maintain a post within musket shot of the enemy without powder, and at the same time to disband an army and recruit another within that distance of twenty odd British regiments". These

short enlistments were probably due, in part, to the hope, so generally held in the first stages of any war, that "it can't last long". Moreover, in a country chiefly agricultural and self-dependent, the able-bodied men were needed at home to produce the necessities of life; and the young farmers, habituated to thinking first of the needs of their farms, and unused to the discipline of organized warfare, probably could not conceive the necessities of the occasion. "The French and Indian Wars", Mr. Ellsworth tells us, "had been conducted with Arcadian simplicity, and it had been the custom to cease fighting in the winter and go home to feed the stock". Nevertheless, as the war continues, we find the same men enlisting again and again for active service.

In May of this year, Kilbourne tells us, p. 96, "a regiment was ordered to be raised for the defense of the State, 'to be subject to join the continental army, if so ordered by the Governor'. Captain Beebe was appointed to the command of one of the companies of this regiment, with Jesse Cook for 1st lieutenant and James Watson for 2d lieutenant. Lieut. Watson was soon transferred to another corps and John Smith of Litchfield was commissioned in his place". Some information concerning the members of this company is given in sundry accounts and memoranda among the papers of Captain Beebe; quoted by Kilbourne, p. 97. "August 9, To cash paid for coffin for Ira Stone; 'Lieut. John Smith was discharged from the army in New York'; 'John German was dismissed from my company by order of a General Court Martial, July 9, 1776'; 'Aug. 9, James Beach died about 8 o'clock in the morning'; 'Sept. the 5th, 10 o'clock at night, Samuel Gleason *died*'; in the account with Joel Taylor—"Paid one dollar to Zebulon Taylor to deliver to *the mother* of the above Joel Taylor, *deceased*, it being cash that was with him when he died'; 'Sept. 27, 1777, Received of Capt. Beebe 22 shillings for mileage from Philadelphia to Litchfield. (Signed,) Abraham Haskins'. From the account of Gershom Gibbs—"Received of Capt. Beebe three dollars that belonged to my husband and son which was part of the money sent to them whilst prisoners in New York. (Signed,) Tabitha Gibbs'. From the account with Nathaniel Allen—"Sept. 27, 1777, To cash left with Joseph Agard to be paid to *Mrs. Allen* that was left with me when Mr. Allen *died*'. From the account with Phineas Goodwin—"To back rations 16 days at Fort Washington, '&c.,

Kilbourne gives us, pp. 98-101, a more complete account of the fortunes of some of these men, and others who enlisted from Litchfield. We quote it with some few abridgements.

"About the 1st of November, 1776, *thirty-six picked men*, were placed under the command of Capt. Beebe and set to Fort Washington to aid in its defense. This post, together with Fort Lee on the Jersey shore, commanded the mouth of the Hudson, and was hence regarded by the enemy as a tempting prize. In anticipation of an attack, the works had been strengthened and reinforced. At the critical time, the Fort and Harlem Heights were manned by



two Pennsylvania Regiments commanded by Colonels Magraw and Shea, Rawlin's Riflemen from Maryland, some of the militia of the flying camp, and a few companies detailed from the Connecticut Regiments. On the 15th of November, Sir William Howe summoned Colonel Magraw, (who had the chief command of the garrison), to surrender. That brave officer—acting under the immediate advice of Generals Putnam and Greene, responded, that he would defend himself to the last extremity. On the morning of the 16th the attack was commenced at four different points nearly at the same moment. . . . The assailants were provided with excellent trains of artillery, which were brought to bear with effect. The attack was prosecuted with extraordinary energy and spirit, and the Americans continued to defend themselves until resistance became fruitless. During a recess in the fight, the garrison was again summoned to surrender; and after a brief consultation with the officers, Magraw capitulated. The entire American force, amounting to two thousand six hundred men, surrendered as prisoners of war. During the siege, the enemy lost about twelve hundred, and the Americans about four hundred. . . .

"The terms of the capitulation were regarded as liberal and honorable on the part of the victors, and highly favorable to the vanquished. The manner in which those terms were violated, and set at naught, by the miscreants into whose hands the unfortunate prisoners were placed, is without parallel in the history of the revolutionary struggle. Crowded, with hundreds of others, into the Sugar-House and on board the Prison-Ships, without air or water and for the first two days without food, contagion and death were the natural consequences. The dysentery, small-pox, and other terrible diseases, broke out among them, and very few of the whole number survived the terrible ordeal. On the 27th of December, 1776, an exchange of prisoners took place. Only eleven of Captain Beebe's Company were able to sail for Connecticut. Six of these died on the way home. The remainder of those who were living at that date, being too ill to be removed, were left behind—where all (except Sergeant Mather), died within a few days, most of them with the small-pox. Here follow the names of these "picked men". The notes appear to have been added by Captain Beebe at the different periods corresponding with the dates":

*"An Account of the Prisoners' Names and Places of Confinement".*

Sergt. Cotton Mather—returned home.

Sergt. David Hall—died of the small-pox on board the Grosvenor, Dec. 11, 1776.

Elijah Loomis—died.

Gershom Gibbs—died on board the ship, Dec. 29, 1776.

Timothy Stanley—died on board the ship, Dec. 29, 1776.

Amos Johnson—died Dec. 26, 1776.

Timothy Marsh—died on his way home.



Barnias Beach—died on his way home.

Samuel Vaill—died on board the Grosvenor, Dec. 27, 1776.

Nathaniel Allen—died of small-pox, Jan. 1, 1777.

Enos Austin—died of the small-pox, Dec. 4, 1776, in the evening.

Gideon Wilcoxson—died.

Thomas Mason—reached home.

Alexander McNeil—died.

Daniel Smith—died in New York, of small-pox, Jan. 1, 1777.

Noah Beach—reached home.

Daniel Benedict—reached home.

Isaac Gibbs—died Jan. 15, 1777.

Oliver Marshall—died on his way home.

Solomon Parmely—went on board the ship, and I fear he is drowned  
as I cannot find him.

David Olmsted—died Jan. 4, 1777.

Jared Stuart—died Jan. 26, 1777, in the morning.

John Lyman—died Jan. 26, 1777.

Elisha Brownson—died on his way home.

*The above Prisoners are at Livingston's Sugar House.*

Zebulon Bissell—died in Woodbury, on his way home.

Aaron Stoddard—died Jan. 12, 1777.

John Parmely—died Jan. 15, 1777.

Joel Taylor—died Jan. 9, 1777.

James Little—reached home.

Phineas Goodwin—died Jan. 5, 1777.

*The above at the Church called the North Church.*

Oliver Woodruff—reached home.

Remembrance Loomis—died on his way home.

*The above at Bridewell.*

Corporal Samuel Cole,

Jeremiah Weed,

Joseph Spencer,

John Whiting,

Were either killed or made their escape from Fort Washington, on the  
16th of November, 1776.

"Probably no similar instance of mortality", says Kilbourne, "occurred during the entire war. Only six survivors out of a company of thirty six hale and hearty young men, is a percentage rarely reached, even in the most fatal engagements".

"Captain Beebe", he adds, "was allowed the limits of the city on his parol of honor", and "was accustomed to visit his men daily, so long as any remained, and did whatever he was allowed to do, to alleviate their wretched condition".

The ill-treatment of prisoners was one of the saddest aspects of the war, and one calculated to arouse the most bitterness. Another Litchfield company had been raised in June 1776, part of six battalions ordered from Connecticut by the General Assembly, to reinforce the army in New York. Of this company Abraham Bradley was Captain, Tilley Blakesley, 1st Lieutenant, Thomas Catlin, 2d Lieutenant, and James Morris Jr., Ensign. "Among the 'Wolcott Papers,'" Kilbourne tells us, p. 102, "is preserved the following Deposition made on the 3d of May, 1777, before Andrew Adams, Esq. J. P., by Lieutenant Thomas Catlin:

"That he was taken Prisoner by the British Troops on New York Island, September 15, 1776, and confined with a great number in close Gaol, eleven days; that he had no sustenance for forty-eight hours after he was taken; that for eleven whole days they had only about two days' allowance, and their pork was offensive to the smell. That forty-two were confined in one house, till Fort Washington was taken, when the house was crowded with other Prisoners; after which they were informed they should have two-thirds allowance—which consisted of very poor Irish Pork, Bread hard, mouldy and wormy, made of canal and dregs of flax-seed. The British Troops had good bread. Brackish water was given to the Prisoners, and he had seen \$1.50 given for a common pail of water. Only between three and four pounds of Pork was given three men for three days. That for near three months, the private soldiers were confined in the Churches, and in one were eight hundred and fifty; that about the 25th of December, 1776, he and about two hundred and twenty five others were put on board the Glasgow at New York to be carried to Connecticut for exchange. They were on board eleven days, and kept on black, coarse broken bread, and less pork than before. Twenty eight died during these eleven days! They were treated with great cruelty, and had no fire for sick or well. They were crowded between decks, and many died through hardship, ill usage, hunger and cold."

Even allowing for the fact that the standards of the day were rougher than our own, that sanitary measures were little understood, and that the British were under the disadvantage of conducting operations on foreign soil, we cannot exonerate from the charge of deliberate cruelty, the officers in charge of the revolutionary prisons. No part of the story of our revolution, however, can be justly told, that represents the enemy as inherently base, or the characters of the warring peoples as essentially antagonistic. They were bred to the same tradition, inheritors of centuries of common life. It is interesting to remember that in the year in which the American Colonies declared themselves a Free Nation, the City of London raised a voice of protest against the prosecution of the war.

The war, however, continued; and Litchfield's part in it became increasingly important. In July 1776, Oliver Wolcott had signed the Declaration of Independence. Shortly after this, when the British captured New York and all communications between New



MAJOR MOSES SEYMOUR









Moses Seayover House— (1735). (Site of George M. Woodruff House.)

England and Pennsylvania were forced onto a northerly route to the Hudson and so down beyond the western highlands, Litchfield, lying on the most direct route to the American posts on the river, became an important military depot, which it remained until 1780. "The depot for provisions", says Kilbourne, p. 117, "stood on the premises now occupied by Dr. Buel's sanitarium, in North Street, where a building was erected for that purpose sixty feet long and two stories high. On the site of the present Court House, was erected a building of similar dimensions as a depot for *other* military stores. A workshop for the army (which was also sixty feet in length and two stories high), stood on the north side of East Street, just west of the Burying Ground. At each of the places here designated, a military guard was stationed night and day—the roll being called—the soldiers drilled, and the guard set, at stated intervals, with as much precision as would have been observed by an army encamped in the vicinity of the enemy. The stores and provisions deposited here, were for much of the time under the general superintendence of Commissary William Richards of Elizabethtown, N. J. Ashbel Baldwin, a native of this town, graduated at Yale College in 1776, and soon received the appointment of Quartermaster and was stationed here. He remained at his post between two and three years, when he received an honorable discharge, and was succeeded in office by Oliver Wolcott Jr., who graduated in 1778".

Prisoners of war were also often sent to Litchfield and were kept in the Jail on East Street. "The location being so far inland, and so distant from any navigable stream", says Kilbourne, p. 112, "it was thought they would be less liable to be discovered and rescued here, than at Hartford, New Haven or Boston". Among the prisoners detained here at various times were the Hon. William Franklin, royal Governor of New Jersey, loyalist son of Benjamin Franklin; and Mr. Matthews, the English Mayor of New York. The latter was in the custody of Captain Moses Seymour, in which he thought himself happy; and whose courtesies he requited by the gift of the "pleasure-carriage" elsewhere referred to. The unfortunate Mayor, however, was not destined to a quiet captivity. He was the storm-centre of many rumors, and was at one time removed from Litchfield for fear of his life. Later he was returned and subsequently made his escape. George C. Woodruff in his Centennial Address, delivered in 1876, states that tradition had it, "that the public authorities did not well know how to deal with his case, and that one day when he 'walked abroad for the benefit of the air', (as he was permitted to do), he neglected to return; very much to the satisfaction of all concerned in his detention".

In the summer of 1776, occurred the event, so dear to local tradition, when the leaden statue of George the third, torn from its gilded glory on Bowling Green, was brought to Litchfield and turned into rebel bullets by a few of the women and young people of the town. This was done, it is supposed, at the instance of Oliver Wolcott, who

had just returned to Connecticut from Philadelphia, and was always keenly alive to the needs of the army. Among his papers was found the following account of the cartridges made on this occasion.

Mrs. Marvin,	3456 cartridges.
“ “ on former account,	2602
	— 6058
Ruth Marvin on former account,	6204
Not sent to court house 449 packs,	5388
	— 11,592
Laura, on former account,	4250
Not sent to court house 344 packs,	4128
	— 8378
Mary Ann, on former account,	5762
Not set to the court house 119 packs,	
out of which I let Colonel Perley Howe	
have 3 packs,	5028
	— 10,790
Frederick, on former account,	708
Not sent to court house, 19 packs,	228
	— 936
	<hr/> 37,754
Mrs. Beach's two accounts,	2002
Made by sundry persons,	2182
Gave Litchfield militia, on alarm,	50
Let the regiment of Col. Wigglesworth have	300
	<hr/>
Cartridges, No.	42,288
Overcharged in Mrs. Beach's account,	200
	<hr/> 42,088

Woodruff, p. 47, says of this, “the late Hon. Judge Wolcott, who figures in the account as ‘Frederick’, and who was a boy at the time, informed me a few years ago that he well remembered the circumstance of the statue being sent there, and that a shed was erected for the occasion in an apple orchard adjoining the house, where his father chopped it up with the wood axe, and the ‘girls’ had a frolic in running the bullets and making them up into cartridges. . . .

“The estimation in which lead was held in those days may be imagined from the fact that the above account of cartridges is filed carefully among returns of troops, accounts of requisitions upon the states, and issues of bills of credit”.

In October of this year, Oliver Wolcott was reappointed a member of the Continental Congress; and Drs. Reuben Smith and Seth Bird were appointed by the Legislature to serve on a committee “to examine all persons in this State that should be offered as Surgeons



or Surgeons' Mates in the continental army or navy, and if found qualified, to give them certificates". Andrew Adams was appointed with others, to cause the arrest of all suspected persons, and those dangerous to the liberties of America.

In December, the Legislature appointed Tapping Reeve and Lynde Lord on a committee "to rouse and animate the people", and endeavor to procure the enlistment of volunteers for Washington's army. A company was forthwith raised in Litchfield, and the following officers were commissioned: Nathaniel Goodwin, Captain; Alexander Waugh, Lieutenant; and Ozias Goodwin, Ensign. At the same session, Colonel Wolcott was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, and given the command of the Fourth Brigade.

This winter was a profoundly trying time for the American army. Mr. Ellsworth tells us that Fiske considered the attack on Trenton the most critical point in Washington's career, for the terms of service of the greater part of his men expired on New Year's Day, and had the attack failed it would have been almost impossible to fill his ranks again. "In that dark hour", says Mr. Ellsworth, "New England did her duty and sent all the troops she could raise to create a diversion in the neighborhood of New York. Judge Tapping Reeve ... was one of those who went ... and served as an officer until the news of the victories of Trenton and Princeton brought assurance that Washington's army was safe for a time".

Through all changes of manners and modes of warfare, the essential problems of war remain the same; armament, food, clothing and shelter for the army; means of raising money; provision for the families of soldiers; regulation of prices;—our revolutionary fathers knew them all.

"Early in 1777", says Kilbourne, p. 113, "orders were issued for raising eight battalions in Connecticut for the continental service, 'to serve for three years or during the war.'" (The necessity for long enlistments had been brought home to the people). "Ninety two soldiers for these battalions were ordered to be raised in Litchfield". In March we find the town voting as follows:

"Voted that the families of such soldiers belonging to this town who shall undertake in the Continental Army in the Connecticut Battalions, and have not time and opportunity to lay out their money, and make proper provision for their families in their absence; be supplied with necessaries at the prices stated by law on reasonable request and lodging money therefore, . . . agreeable to an order and Recommendation of the Hon. the Governor and Council of Safety of the 18th March, 1777.

"Also, Voted strictly to adhere to and jointly and severally endeavor to enforce, support and maintain the Law regulating prices as recommended in said proclamation".

In April, they further voted to pay out of the town treasury "to each soldier that should enlist for the term specified, the sum of twelve pounds per annum", in addition to their pay from the State or Federal Government.

Town votes of a similar nature are recorded throughout the war. In those days the town was far more than now the unit of government, and the town vote regulated many things that are now controlled by the State or Nation.

In this year of 1777 the people began to feel the inevitable reaction from the first enthusiasm of the war. A letter, quoted by Kilbourne, pp. 107-110, from Dr. Reuben Smith to Oliver Wolcott, then attending Congress in Philadelphia, gives us a vivid picture of the doubts and discouragements of the time. Kilbourne reminds us that "considerable allowance must be made for the personal and political prejudices of the writer"; and that "the insinuation in regard to Major Welch" is "ungenerous and uncalled for"; that aside from his active service in the field, that gentleman had been again and again elected to public offices, at times when the "least suspicion of Toryism" would not be tolerated. The letter follows:

*Litchfield, 17 April, 1777.*

Hon'd Sir—Your favor of the 1st instant came to hand the 15th, and I now sit down to give you the desired information, though ignorant of any proper conveyance.

At the Town Council in January, John Marsh, 3d, and Daniel Rowe, were objected to as Innholders; upon which Captain John, who is this year one of the Selectmen, moved that Marsh might be called in, which was agreed to. He accordingly came in, and acknowledged the several charges in substance, and openly declared that in his opinion America had better settle the dispute on the best terms they could obtain from Great Britain; that the further we proceeded, the deeper we should get in the mire, (his own words,) and must finally submit. Captain John tried to help him out by putting some questions which would admit of ambiguous answers; but the young man was too open and frank in his answers, and accordingly was left out, as was Rowe. Captain Seymour and David Stoddard were put in their room.

The latter end of January I joined the army under General Wooster, and retreating soon after in a stormy night, was over fatigued, fell sick, was carried up to Horseneck and there discharged, and returned home sometime in February. . . .

I can't recollect that March produced anything very remarkable except the struggle about the small-pox.

April is a month of great importance and expectation. Several appeared by the suffrages to be candidates for election at the Freeman's Meeting. Mr. Adams came in first; and, after many rounds, Mr. Strong just carried it against Captain Bradley. Captain John Marsh fell much short of the number I expected. Major Welsh, who for some time has appeared a cool friend of the American cause, was observed to have nearly all the tory votes. So much for Deputies. The Constables for Litchfield were Lieutenant Mason, (since dead,) Alexander Catlin, Briant and David Stoddard. Lieutenant Mason was appointed in the winter service, was seized with a pleurisy at DeLancey's Mills, (Westchester,) sent over to Rochelle, and when we retreated from Fort Independence, was removed to Mamrock, where he died the same day. His eldest son, who was with Captain Beebe at Fort Washington, came home about the same time in a very miserable

condition, and is since dead. Captain Beebe and Lieutenant Jesse Grant still remain in captivity. It was said, after our success at Trenton and Princeton, that we were abundantly able to exchange all our prisoners; and certain it is, that we have numbers in hand, and yet our people are held prisoners. Is there not somewhere a neglect? May these partial ills be productive of universal good? Has my honored friend any bright prospects? Has he any cordial for one almost in the Nadir of Despondency? Public spirit and virtue exist with us only in idea. Almost every one is pursuing his private gain, to the entire neglect of the public good. Our proportion of the continental army, I believe, is not half completed. Men will not enlist, and if drafted only for six weeks, (as has lately been the case,) they will rather pay a fine of five pounds. Thirteen men were the other day drafted in Captain Marsh's company to go to Peekskill and to be held but six weeks after their arrival. Not one has gone or intends to go. This town met last week and voted £12 premium for every one that should enlist into the continental army for three years or during the war; but I cannot learn that one man has enlisted since. This day orders came to town from the Governor and Council of Safety to fill up the Eight Battalions immediately, by drafting men out of the militia and alarm companies, till the 1st of January; but it will not be done, as a fine of five pounds will excuse from going.

Our money is continually depreciating. This week, John Collins sold two yoke of oxen for £95, which might have been bought a twelve month past for £20 per yoke. Every necessary article is continually rising in price, which proves a fatal discouragement to men's engaging in the service; for if they go, their families (say they) must unavoidably suffer and starve, as their bounty and pay will not procure them the necessary support.

*Monday, 28th April.*—Finding no opportunity of forwarding the foregoing, direct, it has lain by until this time, and now send it to the Post Office in Hartford with the following addition:

Intelligence was brought to town last Saturday afternoon, that twenty-four Transports were come to a place called Compo, between Fairfield and Norwalk, and that the troops were landing. About two o'clock next morning, an Express came from New Milford, who informed that the troops landed to the number of three thousand, with some light field-pieces, and proceeded direct to Danbury, where they arrived without the least opposition on Saturday at two o'clock in the afternoon, took possession of our stores and the town, which was said to be in flames when the Express came away. The people with great spirit turned out immediately from all our towns, but I fear to little purpose; for if they fired the town Saturday afternoon, they will get on board their shipping before our people get down. Last night advice was brought that the enemy was landing at New Haven on Saturday night, but I imagine it to be only a feint in order to prevent their retreat being cut off. We have heard nothing from Danbury since the departure of our people. The Tories are grown very insolent, but I believe they will not dare attempt anything openly with us.

Mrs. Wolcott and family are well. Oliver is gone to Danbury. My haste must apologize for abruptness, &c.

I am, Sir, Your Humble Servant,

REUBEN SMITH.



"Oliver" herein referred to is, of course, the younger Oliver Wolcott, then seventeen years old, and a student at Yale. He was in Litchfield at the time of the Alarm, and Kilbourn tells us, p. 110, how awakened at night, he armed himself and set out, at once, with his mother's charge, "to conduct like a good soldier".

Evidently Dr. Smith's pessimism concerning the spirit of the people was unfounded, or else the historian Gibbs was misinformed; for the latter tells us, that the fourteen men who left Litchfield on this occasion, were "*the last in Litchfield capable of bearing arms*".

Woodruff, pp. 39-40, quotes a second letter of Dr. Smith's, dated May 12th of this year, in which he writes more fully of the Alarm.

"Sunday morning, 27th April, about one o'clock, we were alarmed; our people turned out spiritedly; came up with rear of the enemy about eleven the next day, a little below Wilton Meeting House, and pursued them aboard their ships. Paul Peck was killed in the last attack on the enemy. Levi Peck, Thomas Peck's son, was wounded in the shoulder about the same time; in Wilton, Ozias Goodwin was wounded in the arm, and Salmon Buel had one of his thighs broken, and the other shot through with the same ball.

The infamous Daniel Griswold, came into the western part of the Town, the morning before the alarm, and was there concealed till Monday, and took off to join the ministerial army, David Kilborn, Benjamin Kilborn's son Cha's, Isaac Kilborn's son Abraham, and Samuel Kilborn son to Giles Kilborn, Jonathan Smith, Jr., and his brother Elisha, (who was enlisted in the light horse.) David Joy, Ephraim Bates, Benjamin Doolittle, Josiah Stone, and John Davies' youngest son David, and one John Beach of Woodbury who lived at Josiah Stone's.

The Wednesday following they were taken, (except Benjamin Doolittle, and Charles Kilborn, who it is said were killed in attempting to escape,) and were carried to Derby, where they were tried by a Court Martial, and Griswold was sentenced to be hanged; which sentence was executed the Monday following, at New Haven. The rest were pardoned, upon their enlisting into the Continental Army during the War. . . ."

Of Paul Peck, alluded to in the Letter of Doct. Smith, it is said, "he was the most expert hunter of the time in which he lived. At the Danbury Alarm, he put his large Gun in order, and followed the enemy to Compo, on their retreat, and took a station behind a stone wall, and every shot told, until he was rushed upon by the enemy, who took his gun from him and dashed his brains out with it." He was killed April 28th, 1777, aged about seventy-five years.

Kilbourn tells us, p. 111, that "Father Mills the eccentric clergyman of Torrington, wishing on one occasion to illustrate the certain and irrevocable doom of the wicked, told of a timid Berkshire fox that started on a trip to the Sound", and "having safely passed the snares, and hunters, and hounds, that beset his way, he became



careless, proud and self-conceited. 'He enters Fat Swamp at a jolly trot, head and tail up, looking defiance at the enemies he has left so far behind him. But O, the dreadful reverse: In the midst of his haughty reverie, he is brought to a sudden and everlasting stop IN ONE OF PAUL PECK'S TRAPS!'"

Of Griswold, Kilbourne says, p. 116, that he was reputed to be "a young man of good character and energy, and was not unpopular with a large class of whigs. Perhaps, by the bloody code of war, he ought to have suffered death as a traitor for enlisting soldiers for the king's service; though it is a fact beyond dispute, that there were among the king's troops, in that very contest, whole regiments of 'Royal Americans', as they were styled. Many of the leading whigs of Litchfield were open in their condemnation of the action of the Court Martial in this instance, and the event probably did not advance the republican cause in this town".

In June of this year, the town witnessed the passage of four companies of Sheldon's Horse, under the leadership of Major Benjamin Tallmadge, bound to reinforce General Washington at his headquarters, at Morristown. Kilbourne suggests, p. 150, that it was probably on this occasion that the troops attended public worship in the old Meeting House, and that Judah Champion offered the prayer, before referred to, which is given in Hollister's History of Connecticut, Vol. II, pp. 390:

"O Lord, we view with terror and dismay the enemies of Thy holy religion. Wilt Thou send storm and tempest to toss them upon the sea, and to overwhelm them in the mighty deep or to scatter them to the uttermost parts of the earth. But, peradventure, should any escape Thy vengeance, collect them together again, O Lord! as in the hollow of Thy hand, and let Thy lightnings play upon them. We do beseech Thee, moreover, that Thou do gird up the loins of these Thy servants who are going forth to fight Thy battles. Make them strong men, that 'one shall chase a thousand, and two shall put ten thousand to flight'. Hold before them the shield with which Thou wast wont in the old time to protect Thy chosen people. Give them swift feet, that they may pursue their enemies, and swords terrible as that of Thy destroying angel, that they may cleave them down when they have overtaken them. Preserve these servants of thine, Almighty God! and bring them once more to their homes and friends, if Thou canst do it consistently with Thine high purposes. If, on the other hand, Thou has decreed that they shall die in battle, let Thy Spirit be present with them, and breathe upon them, that they may go up as a sweet sacrifice into the courts of Thy temple, where are habitations prepared for them from the foundations of the world".

Sheldon's Regiment of Horse, says Kilbourne, p. 128, "was Washington's favorite corps, and continued to act under his immediate direction till the Treaty of Peace was signed—constituting at once his messengers, his body-guard, and his agents for the accom-

plishment of any enterprise, however desperate". Colonel Sheldon, commander of the regiment, "had been for some twenty years a resident of Litchfield, and his troops were raised almost exclusively in this vicinity. Captains Moses Seymour, Stanton and Wadsworth, of this town, commanded companies in this corps—Captain Stanton being at the same time Paymaster of the Regiment. Major Tallmadge was one of Sheldon's most efficient Majors".

Tallmadge is one of the most attractive and dashing figures of our revolutionary history. He was later to establish himself in Litchfield, and enter into business enterprise and public affairs with the same adventurous enthusiasm with which he conducted himself in the war. He always held a high place in the esteem of the people. He joined the army early in 1776 and became a Captain of Dragoons later in that year. His company was mounted entirely on dapple-greys, and Kilbourne tells us, p. 150, that with their black straps and bear-skin holster covers they "looked superbly". Their commander was at this time a young man of twenty three. A sketch of him by Colonel Trumbull, shows, under the plumed helmet of the Dragoon, a high-bred sensitive face, clear-eyed, confident and gallant. His service throughout the war fulfilled this promise.

During the summer of 1777, the depot at Litchfield was actively employed in receiving and transmitting supplies. We can imagine the bustle and excitement of the little town with the passage of troops and supply trains. Kilbourne gives us, pp. 117-118, an account of this activity. "On the 30th of June, Governor Trumbull wrote to General Wolcott, informing him that a team would be sent to Litchfield loaded with powder, lead and flints, and requesting him to send a team to Salisbury for a load of cannon-shot, to be forwarded to Hartford by returning teams. By a subsequent record of the Council of Safety, it appears that on this occasion, there were sent to Litchfield seventeen hundred pounds of gunpowder, two thousand pounds of lead, one thousand flints, and three hundred pounds of cannon-powder.

"On the 23rd of July following, an order was drawn on David Trumbull, for twenty five pounds, five shillings and tenpence, in favor of John and Daniel Dewey, 'for carting powder and lead from Lebanon to Litchfield'".

In the following month, New York appealed to New England to come to their aid, and Dr. Goodwin tells us, p. 11, that "the committee of the town of Litchfield transmitted by return post on August 4th, 1777, the following reply:

"Yours of the First Instant respecting the alarming Situation of our northern affairs never reached us before this moment. Surely, Gentlemen, we shall never be backward in affording every Possible aid in our power for the Relief of the County of Albany. We are not so narrow and Contracted as not to extend every assistance as well to the Inhabatents of a sister state as to those of our own; nor do we imagine that we our selfs can long be safe whilst



COL. BENJAMIN TALLMADGE  
From a Portrait by Ralph Earle









MRS. BENJAMIN TALLMADGE  
From a Portrait by Ralph Earle

Desolation and Conquest over spread your State. In short our Feelings are such that we would run every Hazzard, and risque every danger, for you that we should for ourselves”.

In August, also, according to Kilbourne, p. 118, “General Wolcott wrote to the Governor and Council, stating that he had ordered all the effective men of Sheldon’s Horse and Humphrey’s regiment, (who had not been called to duty under the recent act, and were liable to be called out of the State), to march immediately to Peekskill, well provided with arms, and with forty days’ provisions. The General’s course was approved, and an order was directed to be drawn on the State Treasurer, in his favor, for the sum of £1,000. About the same time, Sheriff Lord was directed to procure from the merchants of Litchfield county, for the use of the army, four hogsheads of rum, six hogsheads of sugar, and two thousand pounds of coffee, at a stipulated price. If the merchants refused to furnish the goods at the price named, the Sheriff was ordered *to take the articles wherever he could find them*, at the appraisal of two or three judicious freeholders and to make return of his doings to the Council.

“In September, Litchfield was established by the Council, as the place of rendezvous for the Sixth Brigade, and Major Beebe was stationed here as the recruiting officer for the Brigade.

“Late in the autumn of this year, a large proportion of the military stores, taken at the capture of Bourgoyne, were deposited here”.

The capture of Bourgoyne brought new hope to the Americans. One of the British officers, wounded at Saratoga, said, when he heard the fate of the day: “Then the contest is no longer doubtful, America will be independent. I have fought earnestly for my King and Country, but the contest is ended”. This officer was a prisoner in the custody of Captain Moses Seymour, whose troop of horse was in that memorable engagement.

Captain Seymour’s account of the dinner given by the American officers to Bourgoyne and his associates after the surrender is recorded by Kilbourne, p. 158: “The utmost courtesy and good feeling prevailed on the part of the principal officers, and the responses to the sentiments given were hearty and enthusiastic. At length, General Bourgoyne was called upon for a toast. Every voice was for the moment hushed into the deepest attention, as he arose and gave: ‘America and Great Britain against the world!’ The response which followed may be imagined”.

In spite of the success at the North, however, the army in Pennsylvania had suffered double defeat on the Brandywine and at Germantown, and these losses were followed by the bitter winter at Valley Forge. It was a dark day for the young nation. Nevertheless, the people were grimly determined to adhere to their cause. In January, 1778, the town of Litchfield confirmed by vote the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union between the States.

In this winter we hear again of Tallmadge, who was stationed with a detachment of dragoons, as an advanced corps of observation between our army and that of the enemy. He wrote to Washington constantly at this time of the need of money and the difficulty of procuring the supplies necessary for his troops.

Later in 1778, he was transferred to service along the Sound, and began his private correspondence with Washington and his organization of an Intelligence Service, which he was to continue throughout the war. His letters of this period which are preserved in the Litchfield Historical Society are very interesting, showing the care and attention which he gave to detail, combined with the imagination to conceive extended plans. He also shows a consideration for his subordinates remarkable in so young an officer.

Throughout the year 1779, he wrote nearly every month, arranging to receive and pass on intelligence through men posted behind the British lines. A code was established and some sort of special ink, requiring a stain, was used. Early in this year, he spoke of the possible end of the war: there were certain significant movements of the enemy; Tories were selling their land. In September, he conducted a successful raid on Lloyd's Neck, to break up a band of free-booters, who from this shelter near a strong British post had been plundering the Connecticut shore. In spite of the success of this particular raid and the capture of nearly the entire band of marauders, the plundering of the coast was to be an annoyance till the end of the war, and Tallmadge was continually combatting it.

The hope of peace held in the early part of 1779 was not to be realized; and in 1780 we find Tallmadge still conducting operations on the Sound.

Meanwhile, the army at Morristown was in great distress after a severe winter, and Washington appealed to Governor Trumbull for aid. His messenger was detained but a short time, when Governor Trumbull placed a sealed letter in his hand, directed to General Washington, announcing that on a certain day he would receive at Newburgh, by a wagon train from Hartford, two hundred barrels of flour, one hundred barrels of beef, and one hundred barrels of pork. Washington's comment on opening the letter was: "If the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be". And when the provisions arrived on the day appointed, he said: "No other man than Governor Trumbull could have procured them, and no other state than Connecticut would have furnished them". This train passed through Litchfield, where additional supplies were obtained. Colonel Henry Champion, the father of the Rev. Judah Champion and of Mrs. Julius Deming, accompanied the train, in charge of a drove of cattle, which were tolled across the Hudson by the side of small boats.

In Litchfield, in this year, the town did everything possible to encourage recruiting and to help the army. It is interesting to see the effort made to neutralize for the soldier the high cost of



living, by a town vote to "make good to him his Forty Shillings per Month, by such addition to the Pay he shall receive from the State or the United States as shall make said Pay sufficient to purchase as much Provisions as Forty Shillings would have done in 1774".

Besides the visits at various times of Lafayette, Rochambeau and other generals, those of General Washington stand out in the traditions of Litchfield. In September, 1780, he arrived here on his way from Hartford to West Point, and according to Gibbs was entertained at General Wolcott's house. The following morning he proceeded westward. It was on his arrival at West Point from this journey that the historical breakfast occurred, at which the treason of Benedict Arnold was revealed. On the evening before, September 23, 1780, near Northcastle, Major Tallmadge was busily engaged in unraveling the mystery of Arnold's associate, John Andre, who in the guise of John Anderson had been captured by three militiamen. Tallmadge discovered the identity of Andre and suspected the treachery of Arnold. If his recommendations to Colonel Jameson, his superior officer, had been acted upon, Arnold would never have escaped.

Andre remained a prisoner in Tallmadge's custody until the time of his execution. During this brief period a warm attachment sprang up between the two young men. Years later Tallmadge wrote: "I became so deeply attached to Major Andre, that I can remember no instance where my affections were so fully absorbed in any man. When I saw him swinging under the gibbet, it seemed for a time as if I could not support it".

Shortly after this tragedy, Tallmadge was on duty again along the Sound; and in November he made a successful attack on Fort George on the south side of Long Island. In 1781 he actively continued his Intelligence Service, and secured plans of the enemy's works at various points. He also arranged for Count Rochambeau, then at Newport, to communicate with the secret agents and to use their services, for which the Count was to provide the necessary money. On May 2, 1781, Tallmadge wrote to Washington from Wethersfield concerning this latter arrangement. On May 18th Washington made the following entry in his diary: "Set out this day for an interview at Wethersfield with the Count de Rochambeau and Admiral Barras. Reached Morgan's Tavern, 43 miles from Fish-skill Landing, after dining at Col. Vanderberg's... May 19th. Breakfasted at Litchfield, dined at Farmington, and lodged at Wethersfield at the house of Mr. Joseph Webb".

Whether Washington visited Litchfield a third time is uncertain; but on one of his visits he lodged at the Gould house on North Street, then occupied as a tavern by Samuel Sheldon. Captain Salmon Buel remembered going early in the morning, with about fifty of his school fellows, to see the renowned commander on this occasion. "A company of horse-guards was drawn up before the house waiting for him; but, as he was not ready to start, the guards rode down North Street and for a considerable distance out

West Street, returning in a short time to the Gould House. The General now came out, mounted his horse, and the cavalcade proceeded down South Street, perhaps to enable him to pay his respects to General Wolcott". (Kilbourne, p. 130).

During the last three years the center of military operations had shifted to the south, and it was there in this year 1781 that the decisive battle of the war was fought. "When Cornwallis was forced to retreat toward the north, after his engagement at Guilford Court House, North Carolina, he took a position at Yorktown. LaFayette had been sent by Washington against him and he held the British in check while the grand coup of the war was accomplished. The commander-in-chief, with his army from the Highlands of the Hudson, including several Connecticut regiments, was making a feint as if to attack New York; his enemy's weak position on the York peninsula developed—the French fleet was investing it on one side—and Washington, by a swift movement, marched southward, and on the fourth anniversary of Bourgoyne's surrender, our Litchfield county men heard the British bands play 'The World Turned Upside Down', as the army of Cornwallis laid down its arms". (W. W. Ellsworth: Semicentennial Address before the Litchfield Historical Society).

It is part of the tragic necessity of war, and the suspicions engendered by it, that the machinery once set in motion cannot easily be brought to a stop; so, though the surrender of Cornwallis meant that American independence was assured, a state of war continued, through the succeeding year and well into 1783. In the spring of 1782, the town of Litchfield voted to raise recruits by a sort of selective draft, decided on in 1781, by which the town was divided into classes, each class being responsible for procuring a certain number of recruits. In March of this year three citizens of the town were assessed "on examination by the civil authorities and selectmen, agreeable to law, for each a son gone to the enemy".

In the mean time, there was still a certain amount of unrest along the Sound; and Tallmadge was engaged in communicating intelligence, and through the first months of 1783 reported frequent skirmishes between British and American small craft on those waters. On March 29th he received rumors of peace, which were confirmed two days later. He immediately requested permission to be among the first to enter New York, in order to protect the Secret Service men, whose position, by reason of its necessary concealments, would be misunderstood by patriots more openly engaged.

It is a tribute to the good sense and good feeling of the people, that a number of British soldiers became residents of Litchfield after the war, and some of them died here leaving families. There was also the deserter Richard Morris, who with his brother Robert, left the British ranks to serve with the Americans under Captain Beebe. John Gatta, a Hessian, unwillingly impressed in the King's forces, who had deserted in New York and served in a New York regiment, also came subsequently to Litchfield, where he lived for

fifty years and married the grand-daughter of Timothy Collins.

Litchfield was quick to begin the readjustments permitted by peace and to return to normal life.

In October, 1783, the town voted to adjust the claims of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers who had served in the eight battalions of Connecticut, and to whom a bonus had been previously granted by vote. This task, with the depreciation of currency, must have been a formidable one. An example of the light in which Continental money was considered is given in Kilbourne's account, pp. 160-161, of the experience of Elisha Mason, the last of Litchfield's Revolutionary soldiers. "On one occasion, at the expiration of a term of service, he was discharged on the Hudson, and paid off in Continental currency. Starting homeward on foot, he reached Danbury, where he spent the night. In the morning, on attempting to settle his bill, his Continental money was refused. He offered larger and still larger sums, and finally tendered bills to the amount of forty dollars, for lodging and meals; but the landlord refused to take the money on *any* terms. Mr. Mason was finally compelled to pawn his rifle to cancel his indebtedness. As his wages were but eight dollars per month, he thus offered the avails of five months' services for his keeping for twelve hours.

A sufferer from the depreciation of the currency, on a larger scale, was Julius Deming, who had served throughout the war as Commissary officer. At one time, when money was urgently needed, for the purchase of cattle, he advanced to Colonel Champion, his superior officer, four Loan Office Certificates for \$400 in cash, amounting in all to \$1,600. Besides this his commissions from the Government, on purchases made by him aggregating \$1,493,209, amounted to \$28,247.96, which represented his income during three years of service. When the day of payment came, and he received Continental currency worth 1 to 70 or 72, the amount of his loss can easily be figured, as his commissions, large though they appear, amounted to less than half of his actual loan to Colonel Champion.

In the latter part of 1780, Mr. Deming came to Litchfield, and in 1790 built the house on North Street known as "the Lindens". In 1784, Major Tallmadge had established himself in his house on the other side of the street, bought two years before. Here the two distinguished men, long to be associated in business enterprises, enjoyed the years of prosperity in the "Golden Age" of Litchfield's history, to which each contributed so much.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE GOLDEN AGE.

The Rev. Dan Huntington, who was pastor in Litchfield from 1798 to 1809, wrote of the town as it was when he first came here: "A delightful village, on a fruitful hill, richly endowed with schools both professional and scientific, with its venerable governors and judges, with its learned lawyers, and senators, and representatives both in the national and state departments, and with a population enlightened and respectable, Litchfield was now in its glory".

We have indeed reached the golden age of our town, the years following the Revolutionary War and the first three or four decades of the Nineteenth Century, an amazing period for a small village, not so much because of the inhabitants of prominence at the time, as because of their achievements, because of the pioneer work they did in so many different directions. Here, as we so proudly remember, was the first Law School, the only one at that day conducted in the English language in any country; here too was the first school for the higher education of girls in America; here were the first manifestations of the temperance movement; here were taken the first steps in the work of foreign missions; here were printed the first Reports of law cases; here were the beginnings of the spirit which led to the increased independence of married women under the Law; here were conducted some of the pioneer industrial experiments in the state. From the intellectual leadership of the Law School to the pioneer manufacture of elastic suspenders is a long interval, which Litchfield filled with energy and competence, until about 1840 the valleys throughout Connecticut conquered the hilltops and left us only the memories of our achievements.

But the social, intellectual and commercial leadership of Litchfield was attained under circumstances so unusual, that the story reads like a romance. Still secluded from the great world of the cities, without mails or roads adapted to passenger traffic, with its rigorous climate and the interminable hills, Litchfield won its way forward step by step. It became a pioneer in so many and such important directions because its population were pioneers. There were no drones in Litchfield; the same energy that was converting the forests into meadows was being exercised by a few leading spirits towards converting the rude settlement at the center into a polished and noteworthy society, in which Washington and Lafayette could be received as equals. It was the triumph of the puritan spirit, brave, unyielding, severe to itself and just to others; if we think that it was a religion too concentrated upon doctrine and too





THE TALLMADGE HOUSE, 1775. (Mrs. John A. Vanderpoel)







THE JEDEDIAH STRONG MILESTONE AT ELM RIDGE, 1787



hard upon the individual, must we not yet confess that it made Litchfield within a hundred years a place looked up to far and wide. Litchfield was a town of happy gaiety as well as of severe learning and work, it had every phase of life represented, except that of scandal. It was sometimes called a staid old town and a prim village, but those who called it such are quite forgotten now, while the memory of the golden age will always be fresh.

Apart from the indomitable character of the settlers, two chief elements entered into the success of the town. The first was the formation of Litchfield County with the importance given to our legal life by the sessions here of such frequent Courts; and the other was the capture of New York by the British in the Revolution, which threw all the business of the War onto the northern highway from Boston and Hartford to West-Point passing through our village. When Washington, at some crisis, would call upon Governor Trumbull for help, Brother Jonathan never failed him and the help and supplies would either be sent on forthwith from the stores in Litchfield or they would pass through the town from points further to the east. Every man in Litchfield was in the War; when the last fourteen men were sent to help in the defence of Danbury they included the boys of sixteen and the old men of seventy five. Happily no such need has ever come again to our country and our town; but it was the need that made our town, in the sense of its prosperity. With the close of the War achievement came with a great rush, that swept before it all the obstacles of location and all the handicaps of our belated start. It may have been another half a dozen years before the government would give the town a post office, but the town was starting its own newspaper and its own Law School within one year, it was starting its own trade and training its own men to become Governors and chief justices for the state, and Senators for the United States.

A half mile from the center, on the Bantam Road, at Elm Ridge, is still standing the old white marble stone, which reads:

30 Miles to  
Hartford.

102 Miles to  
New York.

---

J. Strong,  
A. D. 1787.

Jedediah Strong, as we shall see, was not a citizen representative of Litchfield at its best; but he had the Litchfield spirit. The only thing that separated Litchfield from other cities was distance, which in turn could always be expressed in miles.

When it became apparent that a government post-office would be slow in coming, it was local enterprise that decided to hasten the day by the establishment of its own office, so that in January, 1791, we find the Monitor issuing the following advertisement:

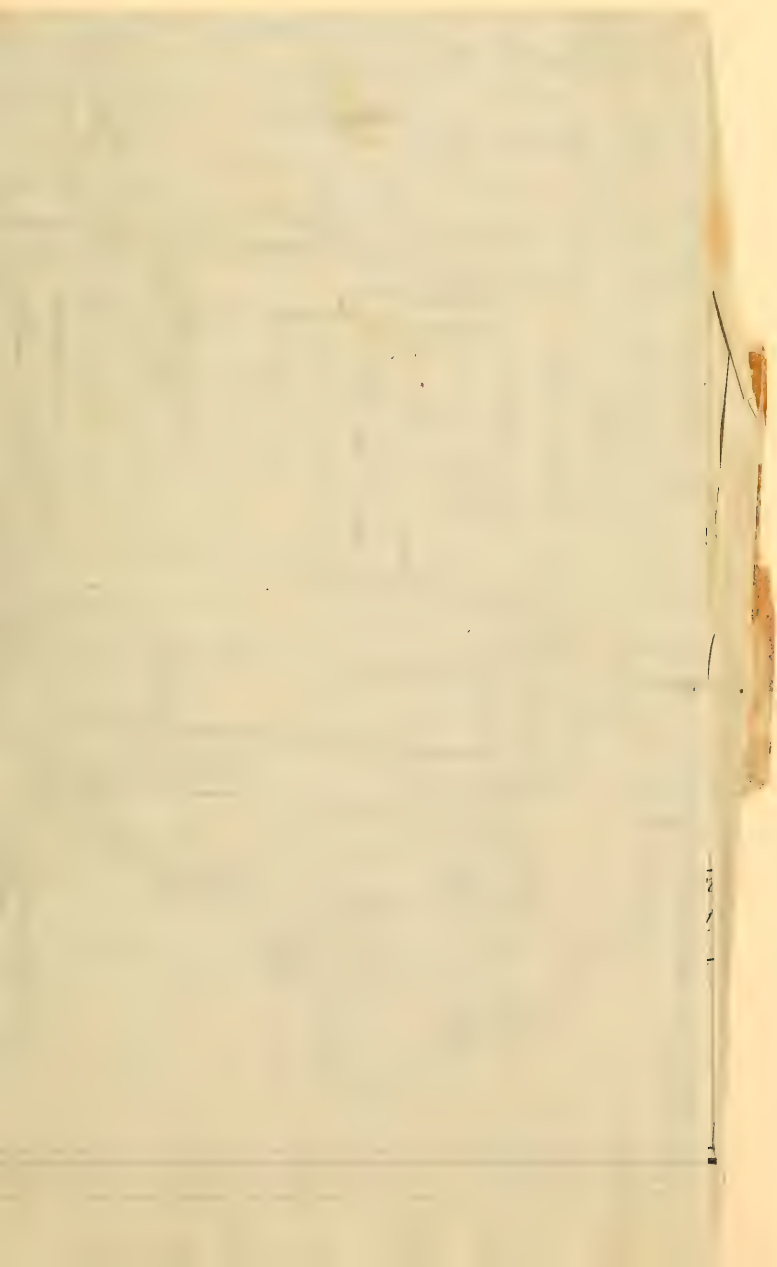
"Post-Office Establishment. The Public, particularly Gentlemen in the Town and Vicinity of Litchfield, having some time lamented the want of a regular and weekly Intercourse with the City of Hartford, by a Post immediately from this Town—are respectfully assured, that a Post in conjunction with Mr. Isaac Trowbridge, the Rider from New York, will start from this Office for Hartford regularly, once a week, commencing on Monday next, the 31st inst. This Establishment has met the Sanction and Concurrence of Mr. Trowbridge; and the Undertakers will be subject to the same Regulation and Responsibility required by the Postmaster General. Consequently, every Duty annexed to the Business will be strictly and pointedly observed.

"And that the Public may be better accommodated, and derive a safe Repository for their Letters, &c., a Post-Office is opened at Collier's Printing Office—at which place all Despatches, to be transmitted through the medium of either post, must be deposited. During the Winter, (till the 1st of May next,) the Post from New York will ride once a fortnight, and arrive on Tuesday evenings; commencing the 5th of the ensuing month. Those who have Business or Letters are requested to leave their directions at this Office, for New York on Tuesday, for Hartford on Saturday Evenings, preceding the days of departure; as the Posts will positively start at an early Hour. Letters will be received at this Office for any part of the United States".

The establishment of this private Post gave the necessary spur to the Government, which in a year opened a Post Office in the town. This formed one link on the Post Road from New York to Hartford, passing through White Plains, Northcastle, Salem, Pound Ridge, Ridgefield, Danbury, New Milford, Litchfield, Harwinton and Farmington. At first the Litchfield office was the only one in the County, and it is interesting to read the advertisements of unclaimed letters, like the following, which shows only six letters unclaimed for the whole county for a period of three months: either the number of letters was very small or the interest in obtaining them was so great that every one was diligently called for:

"List of Letters at the Post Office in Litchfield last quarter: Noble Bostwick, New Milford; Justus Cook, Northbury; David Fancher, Watertown; Reuben and John Miner, Winchester; Jonathan Werden, Salisbury. B. Tallmadge, P. M. Litchfield, Nov. 1, 1792".

"Within the half-dozen years next succeeding this date", Kilbourne, p. 169, "commenced what may be characterized as the Era of Turnpikes and Stage-Coaches, which continued in its glory for something over forty years. During this period, very much was done to improve the routes of travel and to facilitate communication of town with town. Turnpike Companies were organized in all parts of the State, and turnpike stock was regarded by capitalists as a safe, profitable and permanent investment. The Litchfield and New Milford Turnpike Company was incorporated in October, 1797; the Litchfield and Harwinton Company, in October, 1798; and the







astand out AD 1720, to 1725, from plan  
annexed to the original deed, and from  
the original surveys. C. W. 1845

astand out AD 1720, to 1725, from plan  
annexed to the original deed, and from  
the original surveys. C. W. 1845

*Note.* The numbers prefixed or annexed to the names denote the order in which the Lots were drawn.

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Litchfield and Canaan Company, in May, 1799. Then followed Straits' Turnpike, from Litchfield to New Haven, the Litchfield and Cornwall, the Litchfield and Torrington, and the Litchfield and Plymouth Turnpikes,—so that, in due time, it became almost impossible to get into or out of our town without encountering a toll-gate. Four-horse Stage Coaches gradually came into use from the time that Turnpikes became general; and ultimately Congress enacted that the U. S. Mails should be thus conveyed on all the principal routes. Litchfield now became an important center of travel. Daily lines of Mail Stages were established between this village and Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk, Poughkeepsie and Albany”.

“There is also a turnpike”, Morris, p. 93, “on the eastern boundary, running contiguously to Mattatuck or Waterbury river, uniting with the Straits turnpike at Salem, and running to Massachusetts line, through Winchester and Colebrook. As the rivers and rivulets are small, the Bridges are not worthy of a particular description. The expense of keeping them in repair amounts to between two and three hundred dollars annually”.

Mrs. E. N. Vanderpoel has preserved a number of the advertisements of the Stages in her *Chronicles of a Pioneer School*, including a long one in verse, pp. 22-23. We will only quote one of these, in which the emphasis is laid upon *no night travelling*; One doubts its advantages on reading further that the stage leaves at 3 A. M. No wonder the passengers used to sit up all night for fear of being left behind, especially when they were school girls going on their vacations:

“New Arrangement. Litchfield, New Milford, Danbury and Norwalk Mail Stage. This Stage leaves Josiah Park's Hotel, Litchfield, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 3 in the morning, passing thro' New Preston, New Milford and Brookfield and arrives at Danbury to lodge: leaves Danbury next morning for Norwalk and arrives in time for passengers to take the steam boat for N. York. No Night Travelling. Fare through to New York 3.25. Returning Takes the Norwalk passengers at Danbury on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, and arrives in Litchfield the same day. For seats apply at the Bar at Park's Hotel, Litchfield, H. Barnes, Proprietor, November 10, 1829”.

A special importance was given to taverns by the increase of Stage Coaches, as the transient business which followed was added to the regular visitors coming to the town. Besides these, there were the scholars at the two schools, sometimes over a hundred from other places, far and near, to be cared for, so that the houses which were not used as Inns, were often converted into boarding houses, and almost every house took in at least one boarder.

Some of the taverns were specially successful and popular. There was Grove Catlin's Hotel, built about 1800, and later converted into the Mansion House. This remained an Hotel till the fire of 1886, and stood on the present site of Crutch & Marley's Drug Store. It figures prominently in Plate 26, and in Plate 27 is shown

one of the typical old village scenes, the preparation of the annual Mansion House wood-pile. The logs were hauled in by teams, and then a considerable number of men were employed to saw up the pile, all at one time. For some years the pile used to stand out on the street.

The house now owned by the Phelps House Corporation on East Street, next but one to the corner of North Street, was built by John Collins in 1782. He was a son of Timothy Collins, but he evidently thought that keeping a tavern would be more profitable than following in his father's footsteps in the church, and he opened the house as an Inn from the beginning. The bar was in the south west front room, with the ball room directly overhead.

In 1787, David Buell built the present Phelps' Tavern. This popular and well-known hostelry is to-day probably the oldest Hotel in point of continuous service now standing in the County, if not in the State. Very few country hotels have entertained so many distinguished men and women. As originally built the entire top floor was a ball-room, in which was given the famous Ball to Lafayette in 1824. A fuller description of this room will be found in the chapter on Amusements. The tavern was sold to John Phelps, under whose regime it first became so well known.

The house on the east side of South Street, now owned by Mrs. Esther T. Champlin, was built by Benjamin Hanks in 1780. It was first used as an Hotel by Josiah Parks, in the late 20's. George Bolles later kept a tavern there, and built the addition to the south. Mr. Wadhams of Goshen was the last person who continued it as an hotel, and it passed into the possession of A. C. Smith in the early 50's. Mr. Smith made the division between the north and south sections.

On North Street, a famous hostelry was Sheldon's Tavern, now the residence of John P. Elton. It is the second oldest house now standing in the Borough. It was built in 1760 by Elisha Sheldon, who came to Litchfield in 1753 with several other residents of Lyme, including Lynde Lord and Reynold Marvin. Judge Sheldon was Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas from 1754 to 1761, when he was elected a member of the Council at Hartford. He served in this position till his death in 1779. On his death, his son Samuel Sheldon converted the house into a tavern. It was purchased by Uriah Tracy, who made it his home till his death in 1807.

The first Court-House was built in 1752, and stood in the center of the present Center Park, between the Church and the School. The second Court-House was built on the site of the present Court-House in 1797. Julius Deming acted for the town in its construction and the contract was awarded to Alexander and Moses Catlin. The contract and plans for its erection are preserved by the Litchfield Historical Society. It is described in the contract "to be 40 feet in front, 60 feet deep and 25 feet posts, with a flat roof to rise 1-5 or 2-9 with four columns in front supporting a peddiment & a Cupola".

The School-house was built in 1732. There had been, at first,





MANSON HOUSE, 1800, AND SECOND COURT HOUSE, 1798







PREPARING THE WINTER'S WOODPILE FOR THE MANSION HOUSE



a good deal of discussion as to whether the Center School should be on Litchfield Hill or on Chestnut Hill, but once the matter was settled it appears to have given no further trouble. In the days of the golden age, the town had been divided into school districts, which at one time reached the surprising number of 28, each with its own small school. And in addition there were a variety of private schools. In 1798, the care of the Schools passed into the hands of the First School Society, a body which remained in charge until 1855, when the management was taken over again directly by the town. The Society also had charge of the Burying Grounds. It was directed by many of the prominent men of the town, in the form of a Committee, which probably corresponded very closely to the present School Board. On this committee we find the names of Lyman Beecher, Benjamin Tallmadge, Frederick Wolcott, Julius Deming, Moses Seymour, Uriah Tracy, and many others. Their great concern, at least in the earlier years, was to obtain enough books that were alike.

For a time, about 1798, there was a Public Library, and somewhat later a Litchfield Lyceum, with lectures, Debates and weekly meetings.

Such, very briefly, was the setting in which the years of the Golden Age were to unfold, as we will now trace in a series of chapters dealing with its several distinct aspects.

## CHAPTER IX.

### THE LITCHFIELD LAW SCHOOL.

As we look back to the days of the Litchfield Law School, 1784-1833, it stands out as the most important single feature in the History of our town. The picture we have of it in our minds is likely, however, to be somewhat fragmentary. The outer side of the picture, what we call the picturesque side, is apt to dwarf the inner meaning of this remarkable achievement. We are likely to have in mind the charming account of the students' life left us in the Personal Memories of E. D. Mansfield, pp. 126-128:

"We breakfasted from seven to eight in the morning, and at nine went to the lecture-room to hear and take notes of Judge Gould's lecture. The founder of the Litchfield Law School was Judge Tapping Reeve, and, if tradition is correct, few better men have ever lived, and scarcely any one was then better known to the bar. He was the author of a Treatise on Domestic Relations, which the lawyers admired, but said was not law, on account, I believe, of its leaning too much to women's rights, a fault which would not be found with it in this day. At the time I arrived in Litchfield, 1823, Judge Reeve had given up the law school to Judge Gould, who had been his partner, and he soon after died. He was a man rather noted for eccentricities. After the death of his first wife, he married his housekeeper, a most respectable woman, however, distinguished for piety and benevolence. He was quite absent-minded, and one day he was seen walking up North Street, with a bridle in his hand, but without his horse, which had quietly slipped out and walked off. The Judge calmly fastened the bridle to a post, and walked into the house, oblivious of any horse. It was under the teaching of Judge Reeve that such men as John C. Calhoun and John M. Clayton, of Delaware, were law students. The school was now under the sole care of Judge Gould. At nine o'clock we students walked to the lecture-room, with our note-books under our arms. We had desks, with pen and ink, to record the important principles and authorities. The practice of Judge Gould was to read the principle from his own manuscript twice distinctly, pausing between, and repeating in the same manner the leading cases. Then we had time to note down the principle and cases. The remarks and illustrations we did not note. After the lecture we had access to a law library to consult authorities. The lecture and references took about two hours. Those of us who were in earnest, of whom I was one, immediately returned home, and copied out into our lecture-books all the principles and cases. My lecture-books made five

volumes. The lectures, the references, and the copying took me, on an average, from nine o'clock until three or four o'clock, with the intermission of near an hour for dinner. Five to six hours a day employed in this manner was my regular work at Litchfield, and very seldom was a day missed. At four o'clock in the afternoon I was generally at leisure, and that was usually employed in walking or riding, sometimes in visiting. We prolonged our rides in summer time, having taken an early tea, into the starlit shades of night. In the long days of summer no candles were lit in the farm-houses of Connecticut. When the deep twilight came, every family had gone to rest as completely as the chickens to their roosts; but when the dawn of day came, they were up; and when we lazy students were at breakfast, they had done hours of work. Such were the Connecticut farmers of that day".

These happy days of study, under circumstances unequalled at that time, the distinguished men who then crowded our streets, (men, rather, who were to be distinguished in the years to be), the kindly, lovable figure of Tapping Reeve, and the more serious Gould, made the Law School the prominent feature of the town's life, unless we give precedence to the charm and beauty of the girls' school. Mrs. William Curtis Noyes has described the scene as an eye-witness, (Vanderpoel, p. 28): "Imagine these now quiet streets with red coaches rattling through them, with signs of importer, publisher, goldsmith, hatter, etc., hanging on the shops with young men arriving on horseback to attend the law school and divide their attention between their studies of the law and studies of the pretty pupils of the Female Academy. Then there were some gay bloods from the South so much at home in the town that they disported themselves in pink gingham frock coats!"

We will return again to this picturesque side of the Law School; but first it is important to try and summarize the real meaning of its achievement. To do so, we must go back to a survey of the legal practices before the Revolution, and see just where the study of law came into the general plan. Taking the country as a whole, the law then occupied a very different position from what it does at the present day. There was much less wealth, proportionately: so much less, that it is hard for us to realize the difference. In consequence, there was much less litigation of a strictly business character. On the other hand, the body of the law was much less defined; there were no law reports, till the day of our own Ephraim Kirby, 1789; Constitutional Law, naturally, did not exist; and the interpretations of the Common Law were the subject of much difference of opinion. Even more than to-day, the success of a lawyer depended on his individuality, and the roll-call of the lawyers of the County at the time, as given for instance in the Centennial Address of Judge Church, 1851, pp. 54-59, shows an aggregation, the average merit of whom is amazing when we take into account the difference in the population of the County as a whole and the difference in wealth. Our concern is only with the lawyers of the township.

Our most distinguished lawyer at the period of the War, was Andrew Adams. He was born in Stratford, 1736, and came to Litchfield in 1764. He was one of our Representatives to the General Assembly, 1776-1781, after which date he became a member of Congress. In May, 1793, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Superior Court of the State, in which office he died, November 27, 1797. Of him, Morris wrote, p. 110: "As a lawyer, few exceeded him; especially in managing causes before a jury. He was an able judge". The Monitor mentioned it as a sad coincidence that he and Governor Oliver Wolcott Sr., the two highest dignitaries of the State, residing on the same street of the same village, were lying at the point of death at the same time. Governor Wolcott survived his distinguished neighbor only four days, dying on December 1, 1797. (Bench and Bar, p. 217).

Reynold Marvin came to Litchfield from Lyme in 1751, and was appointed King's Attorney in 1764. He was a distinguished lawyer, but the coming on of the War led him to resign his office, and there is no record that he remained in practice. His sympathies appear to have been strongly with the cause of Independence. He died in 1802. Another temporarily successful lawyer, Jedediah Strong, who is mentioned elsewhere, also died in 1802.

John Allen, who is also mentioned elsewhere, was born 1763 and died in Litchfield in 1812. He was a member of the Council and of the Supreme Court of Errors of the State and member of the Fifth Congress.

Isaac Baldwin, who came to Litchfield from Milford, and married a daughter of Timothy Collins, was an active lawyer for many years prior to his death in 1805. He was County Clerk forty two years, Town Clerk thirty one years, Clerk of the Probate Court twenty nine years, not to speak of some ten terms in the General Assembly and other services.

To this distinguished company, in 1772, came Tapping Reeve. He was the son of the minister at Brookhaven, Long Island, where he was born in 1744. He was a graduate of Princeton, 1763.

He not only proved himself a successful lawyer from the first, but a striking personality. The word *striking* is perhaps misleading, for there was nothing obtrusive about him. And yet it is correct, for he won affection, interest, sympathy, without effort. Men liked to be with him. Years later, Lyman Beecher exclaimed of him, (Autobiography, p. 216): "Oh Judge Reeve, what a man he was! When I get to heaven, and meet him there, what a shaking of hands there will be!"

"The rules of court, at this time, in Connecticut, required as a condition of admission to the bar, two years of study with a practicing lawyer in the state, by those who had been graduated at a college, and three years by all who had not been". (Simeon E. Baldwin, Great American Lawyers, James Gould, 1909, p. 460).

It is not to be wondered at that many young men were coming to Litchfield, and to all parts of Litchfield County, for these two

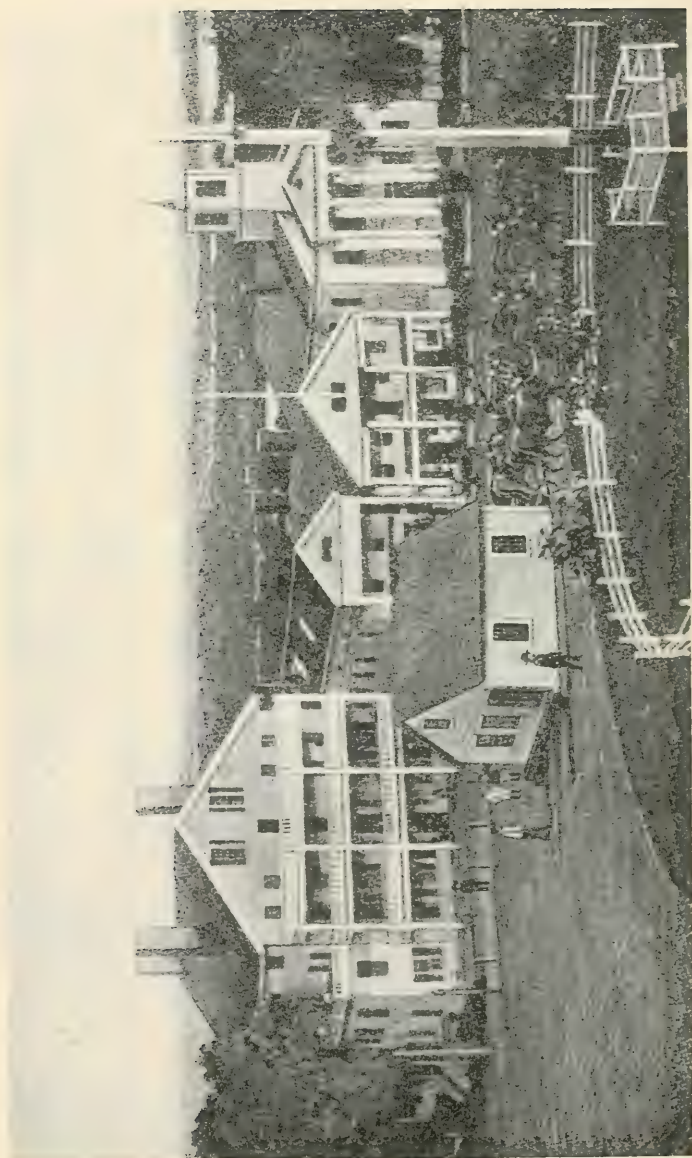




TAPPING REEVE  
From an Engraving by George Catlin







MOVING THE REEF LAW SCHOOL TO WEST STREET, 1846



years of study. So, in 1780, we find Noah Webster, of the Dictionary, coming to Litchfield to study with Jedediah Strong.

Another young law student was Ephraim Kirby, who studied his two years with Reynold Marvin, and afterwards married the daughter of his teacher. Kirby was born in Litchfield in 1756. He was a man active in body and in intellect. After being admitted to the bar, he took a prominent part in local political affairs. He was a democrat. He represented Litchfield a dozen or more times in the General Assembly. On the election of Jefferson to the Presidency in 1801, "Col. Kirby was appointed supervisor of the national revenue for the State of Connecticut. Upon the acquisition of Louisiana the President appointed him a Judge of the then newly organized territory of New Orleans. Having accepted the station, he set out for New Orleans, but died on the way, aged 47 years". (Bench and Bar, p. 170). He is remembered especially as the compiler of the first Law Reports, which he published under the title: Reports of Cases Adjudged in the Superior Court, from the year 1785 to 1788. The manuscript of this epoch making work is now in the Litchfield Historical Society. It was the model on which the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts based the Reports they published a year or two later, which have since then been universally followed.

The majority of young law students, more and more, drifted to Tapping Reeve; and then they stopped drifting, and came long distances purely to be under his influence.

Among the first was Aaron Burr, his own brother-in-law, whose sister Sally Burr he had married before coming to Litchfield. She was the daughter of President Burr of Princeton, where Tapping Reeve had first met her. Aaron Burr studied in the Reeve office till the War broke out, and he was a frequent visitor in Litchfield afterwards. Here he met Mrs. Theodosia Prevost, whom he afterwards married.

The most distinguished of these early students was Uriah Tracy, who represented Connecticut in the United States Senate from 1800 until his death in 1807. He was born in Norwich, 1754, and graduated at Yale in 1778. He studied with Tapping Reeve in 1780 and was admitted to the bar the next year. He was a Major-General in the War, and Representative in Congress from 1793 until he became Senator. When in Litchfield he lived on North Street, in the house built 1760 by Col. Elisha Sheldon, from whom he bought it. At his death it passed to his son-in-law, Judge Gould, from whose estate, in turn, it was bought by Professor James M. Hoppin; it is now owned by John P. Elton.

Uriah Tracy, such is fame, is now remembered chiefly for a couple of repartees. "Few have had more wit, or used it more pleasantly", said James Morris of him; but others describe the sting of his witticisms as dreaded by his adversaries.

Much discussion has been aroused concerning one of his sayings and to whom it referred. I quote it from Mansfield, (p. 124): "He was standing on the steps of the Capitol, which you know looks

down Pennsylvania avenue, when a drove of mules was coming up. Randolph, who was standing by him, said: 'There, Tracy, are some of your constituents'. 'Yes, sir', said Tracy, 'they are going to Virginia, to keep school.' Mellowed by a hundred and twenty years, such a story becomes a classic; and it is entirely proper to debate whether the retort was at the expense of Randolph, or of Rhett of South Carolina, or of the Representative from North Carolina, or from Georgia. Each has its advocates. Of the seventeen times the story has been noticed in the preparation of this book, we find the advantage inclines slightly to Virginia, with North Carolina a close second.

As the years passed and the number of his students increased, the change in Tapping Reeve's method of instruction became more marked; but it would be difficult to say exactly at what moment the Law School as such began. The date usually accepted is 1784; though, in his Funeral Sermon, p. 10., Lyman Beecher says that he commenced regular lectures in 1782. The date is not important; the important thing is the revolution in the method of instruction. Governor Baldwin styles these lectures as constituting not only the first Law School in America; but he adds, p. 455, that no other then existed "In any English speaking country, for the Inns of Court had long ceased to be seats of serious instruction and the 'schools' of Oxford and Cambridge were little but a form".

The Law School made an immediate appeal. The Revolution left many young men in search of work, as every large war has done. Trade was at a low ebb, and many turned to the law which was already overstocked. The Law School made it easier and cheaper to get an excellent legal education than could be obtained elsewhere, and the students came not only from all parts of Connecticut, but in due course from every state in the Union. The reputation of the students who went out from the School and the personality of Tapping Reeve added to the magnetic power of the institution. Connecticut itself felt the effect of the School the most; the proportion of lawyers grew out of keeping with their numbers in other states, and several of our best men began to go into other parts of the country. Governor Baldwin says that in 1798 there were 120 practising lawyers in the State, and adds the amusing opinion of Jedediah Morse, (*American Universal Geography*, 1796, Vol. I., pp. 453, 463), that, although these all found employment and support, "it was really because the people of the state were of a peculiarly litigious spirit, and 'remarkably fond of having all their disputes, even those of the most trivial kind, settled according to law'."

In this year 1798, the Law School entered on its second and more important phase. Heretofore Tapping Reeve had conducted the school entirely alone. He held it in the little building adjoining his South Street house, now owned by Lewis B. Woodruff. This little building is now the property of the Litchfield Historical Society, which acquired it in 1911, through the public spirit of Dwight C.

Kilbourn and Mrs. John A. Vanderpoel, after it had been removed from its first site to West Street and was again in danger of being taken down. In the years prior to 1798, Reeve had taught upwards of 200 men, but his ways were so informal that he kept no catalog of their names. In that year he was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court, becoming the Chief Justice of the State in 1814. It was now necessary for Judge Reeve to have an assistant, and he chose James Gould, who had graduated in his School the same year.

James Gould was born in Branford, December 5, 1770. He was graduated at Yale in 1791, and delivered the Latin Salutatory Oration, the highest scholastic honor for the graduating class. From 1798 to 1816 he gave his entire energies to the Law School, only practising as a lawyer in the holiday intervals. In May 1816, he was appointed Judge of the Superior Court and Supreme Court of Errors. In 1820, after he withdrew from the bench, he received the degree of doctor of laws from Yale.

Hollister gives us the following account of him, (*History of Connecticut*, Vol. II., pp. 602-3): "Judge Gould was one of the most finished and competent writers who have ever treated upon any branch of the English jurisprudence. His great work upon Pleading is a model of its kind. . . . He had at first contemplated writing a much more extended treatise, but while he was preparing the materials for it, the appearance of Chitty's work on the same title induced him to change his plan. As it was presented to the public, Gould's Pleading is, therefore, only an epitome of the original design, but for clearness, logical precision, and terseness of style, it does not suffer in comparison with the Commentaries upon the laws of England.

"As a lawyer, Judge Gould was one of the most profoundly philosophical of that age. He carried into the forum the same classical finish which appears upon every page of his writing. . . . It would have been as impossible for him to speak an ungrammatical sentence, use an inelegant expression, or make an awkward gesture, in addressing an argument to the jury, as it would have been for him to attempt to expound the law when he was himself ignorant of it, to speak disrespectfully to the judge upon the bench, or to exhibit any want of courtesy to the humblest member of the profession who might happen to appear as his opponent. His arguments also, like his writings, were expressed in the most brief forms in which a speaker can convey his thoughts to his hearers. He seldom spoke longer than half an hour, and the most complex and important cases never exceeded an hour".

The greatest possible difference of character existed between the two Judges. To quote Baldwin again, p. 463: "It was feeling that predominated and ruled the character in Reeve, and intellect in Gould. Their students respected both, but they loved only one. The commonplace book of a girl who was at Miss Pierce's School in 1811 shows entries by each. Judge Reeve describes her affectionately



as 'my Lucy', quotes a verse from a hymn, and urges upon her attention the subject of personal religion. Judge Gould gives a few lines from Pope's *Iliad*". And again, p. 468-469: "Judge Reeve's method of instruction was based on written notes, from which he lectured with frequent off-hand explanations and illustrations of a colloquial nature. His thoughts often outran his utterance, and he would leave a sentence unfinished to begin another, as if distracted by what one of his students described as a 'huddle of ideas'. Judge Gould clung closely to his manuscript, from which he read so slowly that the students, each seated at a separate desk, could write down everything that was uttered. This each was expected to do then and there. The notes thus taken, and also those made at Judge Reeve's lectures, the students afterwards copied with care into large folio volumes. They filled in all five of these, the pages of which measured about nine and a half by seven and a half inches. The notes of those which Judge Reeve had been accustomed to give before the accession of Mr. Gould could be contained in one or more volumes of much smaller size".

The achievement of the School is perhaps best seen by comparing the course of study offered after 1798 with the reading usual for students in private offices prior to 1784. In those days they "studied some forms and little substance, and had within their reach but few volumes beyond Coke's and Wood's *Institutes*, Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Bacon's *Abridgment*, and Jacob's *Law Dictionary*; and, when admitted to the bar, were better instructed in pleas in abatement, than in the weightier matters of the Law". (Church's Centennial Address, p. 50).

Theodore D. Woolsey, in his *Historical Discourse at the Semi-Centennial of the Yale Law School*, p. 8, gives the following list of the subjects studied at the Litchfield Law School, together with the number of pages of note-books occupied by each:

Lectures by Reeve: Master and Servant, 44 pages; Baron and Feme, 92; Parent and Child, 48; Guardian and Ward, 10; Executors and Administrators, 69; Sheriffs and Gaolers, 41; Evidence, 72; Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, 120; Insurance, 122; Charter Parties, 5; Joint Owners of Vessels, 2; Partnership, 7; Factors, 6; Stoppage in Transitu, 2; Sailors' Contracts, 2; Powers of Chancery, 51; Criminal Law, 64; Estates upon Condition, 83; Modes of Acquiring Estates, 23; Devises, 57.

Lectures by Gould: Municipal Law, 50; Contracts, 113; Fraudulent Conveyances, 33; Bailments, 55; Inns and Innkeepers, 9; Covenant-Broken, 42; Action of Debt, 9; Action of Detinue, 2; Action of Account, 9; Notice and Request, 3; Assumpsit, 31; Defences to Actions, 72; Private Wrongs, 74; System of Pleading, 232; New Trials, 27; Bills of Exceptions, 4; Writs of Error, 18; Practice in Connecticut, 68; Real Property, 115; Title by Deed, 40; Actions for Injuries to Things Real, 46.

Charles G. Loring, in 1851, at a meeting of the Story Association of the Harvard Law School, gave a picture of the Litchfield School which is well worth quotation:

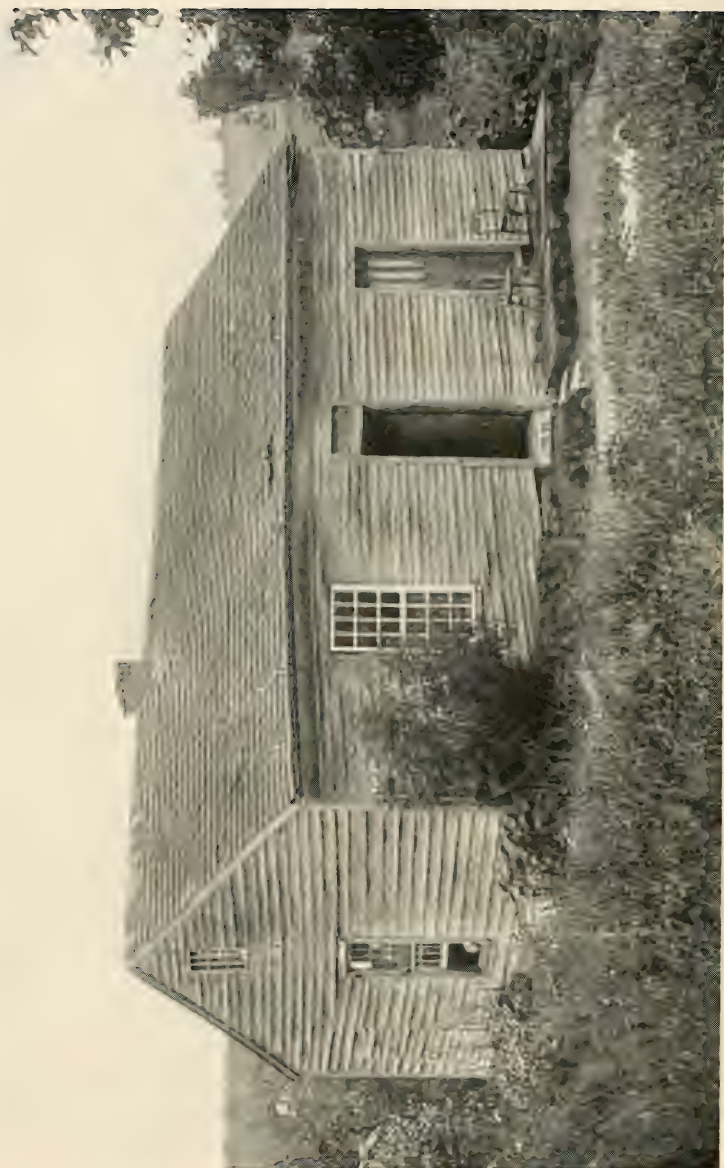




JUDGE JAMES GOULD







THE GOULD LAW SCHOOL



"It will, probably, be news to ... many ... here, that thirty eight years ago, which to many here seems a remote antiquity, there existed an extensive Law School in the State of Connecticut, at which more than sixty students from all parts of the country were assembled. ... I joined it in 1813, when it was at its zenith, and the only prominent establishment of the kind in the land. The recollection is as fresh as the events of yesterday, of our passing along the broad shaded streets of one of the most beautiful of the villages of New England, with our ink-stands in our hands, and our portfolios under our arms, to the lecture room of Judge Gould, the last of the Romans, of Common Law lawyers; the impersonation of its genius and spirit. It was, indeed, in his eyes, the perfection of human reason, by which he measured every principle and rule of action, and almost every sentiment. Why, Sir, his highest visions of poetry seemed to be in the refinement of special pleading; and to him, a *non sequitur* in logic was an offense deserving, at the least, fine and imprisonment,—and a repetition of it, transportation for life. He was an admirable English scholar, every word was pure English, undefiled, and every sentence fell from his lips perfectly finished, as clear, transparent and penetrating as light, and every rule and principle as exactly defined and limited as the outline of a building against the sky. From him we obtained clear, well defined, and accurate knowledge of the Common Law, and learned that allegiance to it was the chief duty of man, and the power of enforcing it upon others his highest attainment. From his lecture room we passed to that of the venerable Judge Reeve, shaded by an aged elm, fit emblem of himself. He was, indeed, a most venerable man, in character and appearance, his thick, grey hair parted and falling in profusion upon his shoulders, his voice only a loud whisper, but distinctly heard by his earnestly attentive pupils. He, too, was full of legal learning, but invested the law with all the genial enthusiasm and generous feelings and noble sentiments of a large heart ... and discanted to us with glowing eloquence upon the sacredness and majesty of law. He was distinguished by that appreciation of the gentler sex which never fails to mark the true man and his teachings of the law in reference to their rights and to the domestic relations, had great influence in elevating and refining the sentiments of the young men who were privileged to hear him. As illustrative of his feelings and manner upon this subject, allow me to give a specimen. He was discussing the legal relations of married women; he never called them however by so inexpressible a name, but always spoke of them as, 'the better half of mankind', or in some equally just manner. When he came to the axiom that 'a married woman has no will of her own', this, he said, was a maxim of great theoretical importance for the preservation of the sex against the undue influence or coercion of the husband; but, although it was an inflexible maxim, in theory, experience taught us that practically it was found that they sometimes had wills of their own, most happily for us. We left his lecture room the very

knight-errants of the law, burning to be the defenders of the right and the avengers of the wrong; and he is no true son of the Litchfield School who has ever forgotten that lesson”.

Judge Reeve's efforts to improve the rights of married women bore fruit, but not till many years later, in the work happily of another Litchfield man, Chief Justice Charles B. Andrews, through whose efforts was enacted in 1877 the statute that in our state women are not responsible to their husbands in the transfer of property, either real or personal.

The fruits of the Litchfield Law School are found of course in the records of its students. And we have only to turn to the list of names in the Appendix, to find what these fruits have been. The list is very incomplete. In the first place it includes none of the students of the first fourteen classes; then, although all later names were preserved, the achievements of the various graduates were known only in a fortuitous way. There was no organization of alumni to keep track of what the men were doing. A catalog was printed in 1828, and a supplement in 1831. In 1849, the catalog was reprinted, with the addition of the ranks and positions attained by certain graduates, compiled by George C. Woodruff. Later manuscript notes were made by Lewis B. Woodruff, and still later findings are given in Kilbourn's Bench and Bar. Collating all these sources, we find that there were 1,015 students in all, of whom 805 were at the School after 1798, whose names appear in the catalogs. The men of these later classes achieved in the aggregate the positions of distinction which follow: Vice-Presidents, 1; Members of the Cabinet, 5; U. S. Senators, 17; Members of Congress, 53; Diplomats, 5; Associate Justices U. S. Supreme Court, 3; Judges U. S. District or Circuit Courts, 4; Chief Justices of States, 7; Associate Judges of the Superior Courts of States, 27; Other State Judges, 15; Governors of States, 10; Lieutenant-Governors of States, 7; State Secretaries of State, 2; State's Attorneys, 3; State Chancellors, 3; Vice-Chancellors, 1; Speakers of the House of Representatives of States, 4; College Presidents, 3. Their names and a few others will be given in the Appendix.

Many other graduates doubtless achieved definite work, which cannot be recorded by a title. Prominent among these we may mention the picturesque figure of Junius Smith, who was born in Plymouth in 1780 and graduated at the Litchfield Law School in 1803. "In 1832, he interested himself in the cause of trans-Atlantic steam navigation, convinced that the ocean could be crossed by steam. He was met with incredulity. He undertook to charter a vessel for an experiment but had no success. He tried to organize a company but men of science declared that no steamer could survive the terrible storms that sweep the Atlantic. Not a single share of stock was taken. Notwithstanding this, he persevered. His indomitable will conquered, and in 1838, the *Sirius*, a steamer of 700 tons, sailed from Cork on the 4th day of April, and reached New York on the 23rd.

the first vessel that steamed her way across the Atlantic". (Atwater: *History of Plymouth*, 1895, p. 179).

Horace Mann was born in 1796, in Franklin, Mass. He was in the class of 1822 at the Law School. His career as an educator dates from 1837, from which time to his death, he worked for the cause of education with constant intensity, holding conventions, lecturing, introducing many reforms, planning and inaugurating the Massachusetts Normal School System. He virtually revolutionized the common school system of the country. He died in 1859.

The two most distinguished of all the graduates were both Southerners, John C. Calhoun and John M. Clayton, both of whom became Secretary of State, and the former, Vice-President of the United States. It is always a source of speculation how far the later successes of such men can be traced to the stimulating influence of Litchfield Hill in their most impressionable years. We can at least join with Morris W. Seymour, (Address at the Presentation of the Litchfield Law School, 1911, p. 25), in the fervent prayer that the seeds of secession were not sowed in young Calhoun by the views held by many men in Connecticut at the time, 1804-5, when he was in Litchfield. That this doctrine was undoubtedly widely discussed here appears from Governor Baldwin's essay, p. 485: "In 1829, Judge Gould took an active part in a controversy that followed the publication in 1827 of Jefferson's letter to Governor Giles, stating that John Quincy Adams had told him that designs of disunion were meditated in New England early in the century. Uriah Tracy had been mentioned as one of those who were engaged in them. Judge Gould wrote to those of the leaders among Connecticut Federalists of the Jeffersonian era who still survived, for their recollections as to this matter, and published them with caustic comments on the assertions of President Adams in a lengthy communication to a New York newspaper. (Henry Adams, *New England Federalism*, pp. 93-106). It was a vigorous and loyal effort to vindicate the memory of his father-in-law; but other letters from other sources of earlier date, that have since come to light, seem to show that Adams was substantially in the right. While there was no definite plan of secession, the right to secede was certainly asserted, and the policy of a resort to it advocated in 1804 by not a few Federalist leaders, and among others by Judge Reeve, in confidential correspondence with Tracy". (H. C. Lodge, *Life and Letters of George Cabot*, p. 442).

Among the Litchfield men, who received their training at the Law School, were Aaron Burr Reeve, 1802, the promising young son of Tapping Reeve, who died prematurely in 1809; Seth P. Beers, 1803; Oliver S. Wolcott, 1818, the son of Oliver Wolcott Jr.; Origen S. Seymour, 1824; George C. Woodruff, 1825; Lewis B. Woodruff, 1830.

Daniel Sheldon, the son of Dr. Sheldon, was in the first Gould class, 1798. He was afterwards Secretary to Albert Gallatin in Paris, when the latter was Minister there. An interesting account



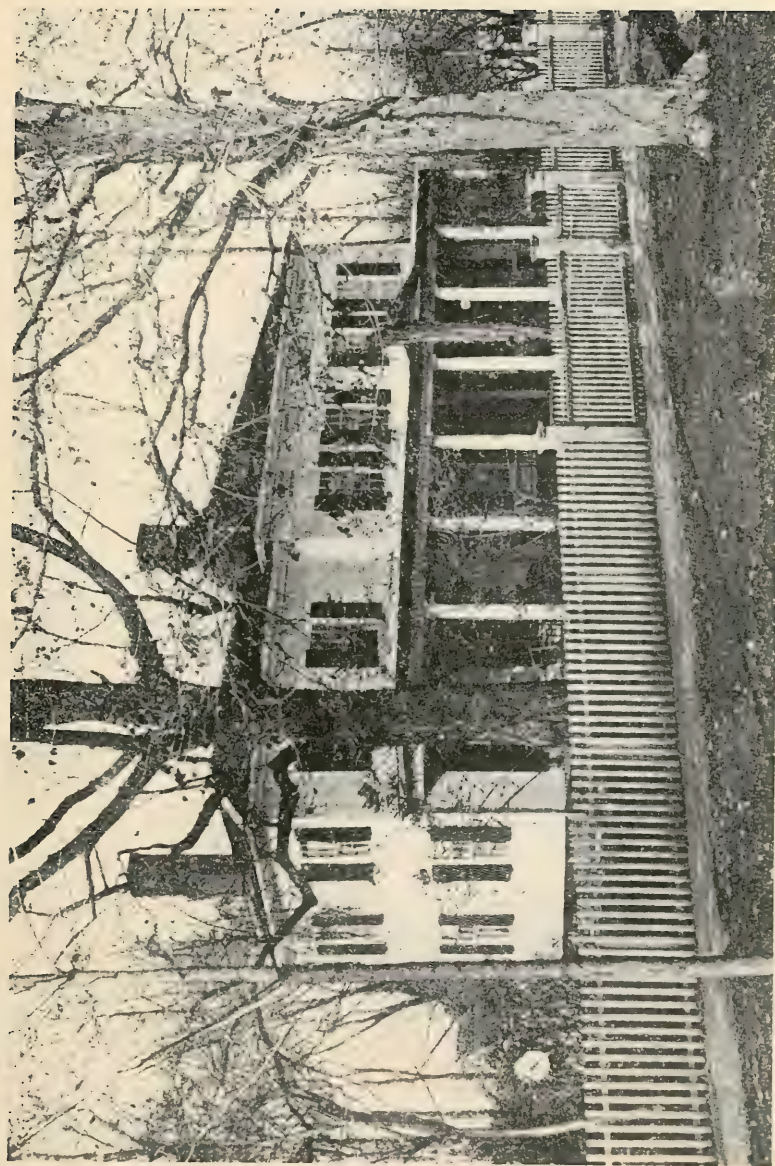
of his experiences is given in Mrs. Edgar B. VanWinkle's paper, *A Litchfield Diplomat*, read before the Litchfield Historical Society in 1904.

The Law School was never incorporated. "Judge Reeve's share in the work of the Law School was not large after he left the bench, and he withdrew from it altogether in 1820, although Judge Gould continued to pay him a third of the net receipts from tuition, annually. . . . His place was supplied after a few years by bringing in Jabez W. Huntington, a member of the Litchfield Bar and one of the alumni of the school, who continued his connection with it as long as it was maintained, then becoming an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Errors of Connecticut, and subsequently a Senator of the United States.

"At this period the regular course of study at the school was completed in fourteen months, including two vacations of four weeks each, one in the spring and one in the autumn. \$100 was charged for the first year of tuition and \$60 for a second, which, of course, if pursued to the end, consisted largely of the repetition of lectures previously heard. Few students ever remained more than eighteen months. After the retirement of Judge Reeve the courses were re-arranged under forty-eight titles. Judge Gould occupied from an hour and a quarter to an hour and a half in lecturing daily. Reported cases were still comparatively few, and he aimed to notice all that were of importance decided in the English Courts. The students were expected to examine some of these for themselves during the remainder of the day, and to accompany each lecture course by parallel readings in standard text-books. One or two moot courts were held weekly, Judge Gould presiding. The briefs of counsel were carefully prepared together with the opinion of the court. There was an attorney-general elected by the students. . . . It was, indeed, often no easy matter for an instructor in such a school to keep so far ahead of his pupils that they would always be forced to acknowledge his superior authority. Many of them were practicing lawyers who came there for a year to round out their professional education. . . .

"From 1826 the Law School began to decline quite rapidly. The publication of Swift's Digest and Kent's Commentaries made its whole theory of instruction antiquated. The Harvard Law School had been founded in 1817, and that of Yale in 1824. No unendowed private institution can long maintain a competition with one supported by permanent funds and forming part of an established university. But six students were in the entering class of 1833. Judge Gould's health had been slowly breaking down for years, and the time had evidently come to close the school. He had been able to maintain it so long only by the aid of a son who sometimes read his lectures to the class, and of a young lawyer of Litchfield, whose assistance in addition to that of Mr. Huntington, was occasionally invoked, Origen Storrs Seymour, afterwards Chief Justice of Connecticut". (Baldwin, pp. 481-487).





TAPPING REEVE HOUSE, 1774. (Lewis B. Woodruff) X marks Site of the Law School







SHELDON TAVERN, LATE JAMES GOULD HOUSE, 1760. (John P. Elton.)



In its later years, the School was conducted in a second little building, adjoining the Gould house on North Street, just as the Reeve Law School adjoined the house on South Street. During the intermediate period, when the school was at its height, both buildings were in use. The Gould Law School was later carried out a mile or more on the Bantam Road, where it was converted into a tenement at the sharp turn in the roadway.

There is something very distinctive about these two small buildings, which have contributed so unpretentiously and so successfully to the legal history of our country. They fitted into the simple direct life of Litchfield, and served to convey to the young men who studied in them something of this simple, direct manner. And beyond all, was the kindly, paternal image of Judge Reeve himself, the real soul of the School, though in many respects Judge Gould was the more important teacher. So generous, so chivalrous, his memory will be treasured when some greater names are forgotten. An anecdote told by Catherine Beecher sums up in a sentence his respect for and devotion to all womankind, namely, "that he never saw a little girl but he wished to kiss her, for if she was not good she would be; and he never saw a little boy but he wished to whip him, for if he was not bad he would be". (Autobiography, Vol. I., p. 224).

## CHAPTER X.

### MISS PIERCE'S SCHOOL.

"It was about the middle of June, 1823", we read in the *Personal Memories of E. D. Mansfield*, p. 122, "that my father and I drove up to Grove Catlin's tavern, on the Green, of Litchfield, Connecticut. It was one of the most beautiful days of the year, and just before sunset. The scene was most striking. Litchfield is on a hill, about one thousand feet above the sea, and having fine scenery on every side. On the west rises Mount Tom, a dark, frowning peak; in the south-west, Bantam Lake, on whose shores I have often walked and ridden. In the north and east other ridges rolled away in the distance, and so, from Litchfield Hill, there is a varied and delightful prospect. One of the first objects which struck my eyes was interesting and picturesque. This was a long procession of school girls, coming down North Street, walking under the lofty elms, and moving to the music of a flute and flageolet. The girls were gaily dressed and evidently enjoying their evening parade, in this most balmy season of the year. It was the school of Miss Sally Pierce, whom I have mentioned before, as one of the earliest and best of the pioneers in American female education. That scene has never faded from my memory. The beauty of nature, the loveliness of the season, the sudden appearance of this school of girls, all united to strike and charm the mind of a young man, who, however varied his experience, had never beheld a scene like that".

Sarah Pierce was born in Litchfield on June 26, 1767, and died on January 19, 1852. Her father was John Pierce, of Litchfield, by trade a potter. He was twice married, and had a large family. The names of eleven of his children are preserved, but probably there were several others. Sarah was the youngest child by his first wife, Mary Patterson. Upon the death of the father in 1783, at the early age of 53, the care of this large family devolved in great measure on the eldest son, John Pierce. He was born in 1752, and at the time of his father's death was contemplating marriage with a Miss Ann Bard. This naturally made him anxious that some others at least of the family should become more self-supporting than their immediate prospects in Litchfield made possible. He therefore had the very happy thought that Sarah should become a teacher. She had a mind naturally quick, but no special aptitude for teaching had yet been recognized in her. It was a random shot apparently, but a most important one, not only for the family, but for Litchfield and the whole history of the higher education of women. John Pierce Jr. was evidently a man of vision, developed, as were

so many, by the imperative needs of the Revolution. He had been thirteen years in the paymaster's department of the army, a friend of Washington, and an able officer, leaving the army with the rank of Colonel. He recognized at once that however apt his sister might become at her books, she would require a dignity and presence, before she could become a successful teacher of girls from the larger cities, such as she herself could hardly hope to learn in the Litchfield of 1784. Twenty years later it would have been a very different story. He therefore sent her to New York in April 1784, and his instructions to her are most interesting: "The short time you have and the many things you have to learn, occasions me to wish you would employ every moment for the purpose, I hope you will not miss a single dancing school, and that you will take lessons from Capt. Turner at other times, pray get him and Katy your friend, to instruct you in everything in walking standing and sitting, all the movements of which tho' they appear in a polite person natural, are the effects of art, while country girls never attend to and which you had best take the utmost pains, or you will never appear natural & easy in. I am somewhat fearful that your old habits at your age can not be so thoroughly removed, as to give place to a natural careless genteel air, and which totally hides all the art of it. The Books I left with you I wish you not to read much in town, I want you to study the fashions, the art of pleasing to advantage and for this purpose to spare no necessary expense, and if you do not appear as genteel as any of the girls it will be your own fault, you must however pay a great regard to economy & always remember that every Dollar takes so much from my future prospects, on which you know that not only yours but mine and all our families happiness depends". (Vanderpoel, p. 347).

Col. Pierce was married in 1786 and died in 1788. The cares of the family through these years fell on Sarah and her sisters, and the plans for teaching could not be put into action until 1792. She continued her studies at odd times through this period, never for a moment forgetting what her life work was to be; and, when she took her first pupil in the dining room of her house, she was fully equipped, both mentally and as her brother would have said socially, to guide her school from this humble beginning to the full heights of its future importance.

Mrs. E. N. Vanderpoel, the great-grand-daughter of Col. Tallmadge and one of Litchfield's artists, has written the story of Miss Pierce's Academy in a fascinating volume: *The Chronicles of a Pioneer School*, edited by Elizabeth C. Barney Buel, 1903. Her book is quoted from throughout the present work, but this chapter on the School can be but a very incomplete abridgement of parts of it. The *Chronicles* should be read by every person interested in Litchfield, as the diaries and letters and other papers reprinted therein open up a picture of the life of the whole town in those days of the Golden Age which no chapters like ours can in any manner indicate.

The School passed through three phases. First it was conducted at the "old red house" built about 1750 by Zebulon Bissell near the site of the present Congregational Parsonage. This was the Pierce homestead at this time, and the little dining room served comfortably as a school room until the number of pupils began very much to increase.

By 1798 (Vanderpoel, p. 19) the school had become of sufficient importance to interest the prominent men of the town to build a suitable building for Miss Pierce. It was then dignified by the name of the Female Academy. The subscription list was headed by Tapping Reeve, who contributed \$40. 26 other names appear on the list, the total subscribed being \$385. The Academy stood immediately below the old house. In 1803, Miss Pierce built herself a new house, still further south, the house and the Academy occupying the present Underwood grounds. The old house was then occupied by Miss Pierce's sister Susan, who had married James Brace, and her family. The second and most successful period of the school was conducted in this second building, the first Academy.

In 1827, it was decided to increase the scope of the school by the erection of a new Academy, with the incorporation of the institution under a board of Trustees. A company was formed, known as the Litchfield Female Academy, of which Frederick Wolcott was the President, with a capital not to exceed \$7,500. Of this 40 shares of \$15. each were given to Miss Pierce in exchange for the land and previous building of the Academy. A new subscription was taken up, and 67 shares of \$15. each were subscribed for. In due course the new Academy was constructed. After the close of the school, sometime after 1855, it was removed to the Beecher Lot, corner of North and Prospect Streets, where it was occupied for some years by the boys' school of the late Rev. James Richards D. D., known as the Elm Park Collegiate Institute. Henry R. Jones of Brooklyn converted it into the present residence of his family after he purchased the corner about 1882. The Beecher House adjoining was bought by Dr. Henry W. Buel about 1872 and removed to Spring Hill, where it now forms a part of the group of buildings.

The Pierce-Brace house was torn down to be replaced by the present Parsonage, and the Pierce house was torn down about 1896 to make way for the present Underwood house. Thus all traces of the Academy are now scattered.

Corresponding to this development of the outward and visible character of the Academy, there was a steady development in its educational policy.

At first the number of pupils was small, the studies very simple. From the start we find that Miss Pierce had a high idea of what girls should be taught. Her ideal was to train them in all the same studies that a boy would be taught. She began Geography and History from the first, both then innovations in girls' schools. At times the lessons were perhaps above the heads of the children. In





MISS SALLY PIERCE







THE LITCHFIELD ACADEMY, 1827



the diary of an early pupil, Julia Cowles, aged eleven, we read: "June 30, 1797. Went to school, told History, sewed some. Miss Sally says that I have been a pretty good girl this week. I have not been offended this week. I have helped Aunt Lewis almost every day this week. ... July 6. I do not recollect any History that we read to day only that there was one Punic war. ... July 13. I do not recollect any of the History read to day only that Hanibal died. ... July 21. Attended school, read History. Danced last evening, enjoyed the intended pleasure. ... July 26. Attended school forenoon painted. I dont know a word of the History. P. M. I stayed at home".

Miss Pierce's sympathy with her pupils was proverbial. Perhaps it was stimulated by the death of one of these, little Nancy Cutler, during the second year of the school, August 1793. Miss Pierce took the little child back to her mother, who afterwards wrote: "September 3, 1793: The amiable Miss Pierce is going home. I fear I shall be still more lonely, but I will try to be cheerful. I esteem Sally for her goodness of heart. She is a good Girl and I think I shall not forget her kindness to me or the attention she paid that much loved child". (Vanderpoel, p. 9).

Miss Pierce was twenty five years old when she began the school. She never lost her sympathy with her girls. She never asked them to do any work which she was not ready to share, nor to undertake any exercise which she was not ready to join in, nor to have any amusements which she did not lead. When she found that the Histories in vogue were dull to her girls, she set out and wrote others herself. Her Histories, dating from 1811 to 1818, were compiled in the form of questions and answers, which she claimed to be the form most easily imbibed by children, and were intended "to intermix moral with historical instruction".

This first period of the school lasted till the building of the first Academy, in 1798. It was the tentative period, the period of growth.

The second period was one of fruition. Pupils were coming in large numbers. We hear of a hundred and thirty in one year, while the total for the whole forty years of the school was afterwards estimated by Miss Pierce's nephew, John Pierce Brace, as having been three thousand. The assistance of her sisters was no longer sufficient for the carrying on of the school, and different teachers were called in to help. The chief of these was the nephew just mentioned, John Pierce Brace, who lived next door. To prepare him to be her assistant, Miss Pierce had sent him to college at Williams. He appears to have been a born educator like his aunt, and to have held as she did that women deserved the same standards of education as men. The program of the school now became greatly enlarged. The studies of chemistry, astronomy and botany were added to those of history and geography. The fine accomplishments of music, dancing, singing and embroidery, of draw-

ing and painting were retained. John Brace was an enthusiast in the natural sciences and Harriet Beecher Stowe used to refer to his keeping up "a constant conversation on the subject".

There are a number of amusing references to his passion for these subjects. In her diary, for June 2, 1822, Mary L. Wilbor wrote, (Vanderpoel, p. 236): "Mr. Brace had all his bugs to school this P. M. He has a great variety, two were from China, which were very handsome, almost all the rest were of Litchfield descent, and he can trace their pedigree as far back as when Noah entered the ark". Another pupil, Caroline Chester, wrote in 1816, (Vanderpoel, p. 152): "I went to Mr. Brace's, where I spent the evening most agreeably and saw a plenty of butterflies and spiders". The cult of natural science invaded the law school, possibly by way of furnishing another subject of common interest. That rollicking diarist and law-student, George Younglove Cutler wrote October 24, 1820, (Vanderpoel, p. 202): "A mineralogical compliment from Dr. A. S. M. in return for a box of stones sent him—which I collected from the neighboring stone walls, etc., 'horizontalizing them' to use his expression, much to the disadvantage of the agricultural interests in this part of the country".

The course of study at this time, 1821, has been preserved in the papers of Miss Sarah Kingsbury, (Vanderpoel, p. 233): "Morses Geography, Websters Elements, English Grammar, Miss Pierces History, Arithmetic through Interest, Blair's Lectures, Modern Europe, Ramsey's American Revolution, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Paley's Moral Philosophy, Hedge's Logic and Addition on Taste".

In this second period, the Academy was the leader in the education of women throughout the country. The third period, after the construction of the enlarged building, was not so fortunate. Miss Pierce, in 1827, was sixty years old, and though she retained her interest and much of her vitality, could not put into the work all her earlier energy; and John Pierce Brace, in the winter of 1831-32, was offered and accepted the position of principal in the Female Seminary at Hartford. He had been the assistant of Miss Pierce for eighteen years, becoming more and more a dominant factor in the work, and his departure marked the beginning of the end. In 1833 Miss Pierce asked to resign, and the Trustees appointed Miss Henrietta Jones as principal. She had been a pupil of the school, and a teacher for five years. In 1844, the Trustees made application to the Legislature for a change in the charter, so that the buildings could be used for both sexes. In 1849 the use of the Academy was tendered to the Normal School. Finally in 1856 the Trustees wound up the corporation, selling the property back to Miss Mary Pierce, a much younger half-sister of Miss Sally, who in the last years had assisted in the conduct of the school. Miss Sally Pierce lived almost to the close of the school, dying in 1852, at the ripe age of eighty five years.

"She was small in person", wrote her friend, Gideon H. Hollister, in his *History of Connecticut*, "of a cheerful, lively temperament, a bright eye, and a face expressive of the most active benevolence. She was in the habit of practicing herself all the theories that she taught to her pupils, and, until physical infirmities confined her to her room, would take her accustomed walk in the face of the roughest March wind that ever blew across our hills".

The life such a woman offered to her pupils was certainly an inspiration. It meant doubtless much more than the mere teaching could; for although the scholarship was so high we do not hear that the graduates achieved any great reputations in science or in learning in their after lives. But they did achieve, many of them, very happy lives, the seeds of which are certainly to be traced to Litchfield. It is not enough to say that many of them became engaged to Law students, whom they afterwards married. What really counted was the influence of Miss Pierce, the influence of the Litchfield culture, the health of the climate, the habit of right thinking developed by the courses, and the cheerful life of the school.

In the next chapter will be found an outline of their more formal amusements, but something should be said here of the everyday life. Few of the girls lived at Miss Pierce's house; the great majority of those who were not Litchfield girls boarded around. There were several fairly large boarding houses, like Aunt Bull's on Prospect Street, and nearly every house took one boarder or two. In many cases the scholars from Miss Pierce's and the students from the Law School boarded in the same house.

Pleasant as the school life was, it was governed by very regular rules, and it is a little surprising to us how strictly these were enforced. Probably this had much to do with everything running so smoothly. Here are some of the rules of 1825, (Vanderpoel, p. 255) :

"You are expected to rise early, be dressed neatly and to exercise before breakfast. You are to retire to rest when the family in which you reside request you. You must consider it a breach of politeness to be requested a second time to rise in the morning or retire of an evening.

"It is expected that you attend public worship every Sabbath, except some unavoidable circumstance prevent, which you will dare to present as a sufficient apology at the day of judgment.

"Your deportment must be grave and decent while in the house of God; all light conduct in a place of worship is not only offensive to God but an indication of ill breeding; and highly displeasing both to the good and the polite.

"Every hour during the week must be fully occupied either in useful employments, or necessary recreation. Two hours must be faithfully devoted to close study each day, while out of school: and every hour in school must be fully occupied. The ladies where you board must mention if you do not study your two hours each day.



"You must suppress all emotions of anger, fretfulness and discontent.

"No young lady is allowed to attend any public ball, or sleigh party till they are more than 16 years old.

"Speaking or moving once in school hours either with or without liberty will take off a part of the extra—unless they move to recite or practice, or write at the tables—Speaking more than once will take off the whole extra and often give you a quarter of a miss.

"You must not walk for pleasure after 9 o'clock in the evening. A reward will be given to those who do not waste any money, books, clothes, paper or quills, during the term. To those who have their studies performed at the proper time. To those who have not been peevish, homesick, or impolite. To those who always attend meeting or church. To those who never write carelessly".

These eight rules were supplemented by fifteen others, so that conduct was well defined. The regulation about deportment in church brings to mind the Reminiscences of Miss Esther H. Thompson, (Vanderpoel, p. 297), who tells about "the feuds between Miss Pierce's scholars and the farmers' daughters—more especially that peculiar class of young American girls who were 'living out'—the 'help'—in village families. These girls, usually the most ambitious of their family, made more independent by self support, gaining influence in proportion to the polish acquired by intercourse with village people, easily dominated all of their set, and together were a strong band. The school girls were supercilious, the help aggressively arrogant—and both classes equally proud and uncompromising. Many a battle was fought on Sunday as well as on week days. All around the gallery walls of the old church on the Green was a row of square pews fenced in with the conventional high lattice work, while in front were two rows of benches. Many of the young people of the congregation chose to sit there where they were more free from the restraining presence of their seniors. Sometimes one part of the gallery would be considered the special choice, sometimes another, but *out girls* and *school girls* would never freely mingle! . When one pew was monopolized by school girls for a noticeable length of time the out girls would come early some Sunday and pack the seats. Then would follow pin pricking, pinching and punching through the lattice—and the incensed school girls would bide their time to preempt the out girls' places".

There was a certain rivalry also between the out of town school girls and the Litchfield girls who did not attend the school. Timothy Pierce, one of the half-brothers of Miss Sally, wrote in 1800, (Vanderpoel, p. 378): "School consisting of 15 only—now there are so few I hope that the native ladies of Litchfield may stand some chance for a part at least of the attention of Mr. Reeve's students".

The rivalry was very friendly on the whole, and the Litchfield people were certainly very hospitable to the girls who came from other places. They were constantly invited out and appear to have reciprocated by being just as nice as they could be. The rule about being home at nine was sometimes a source of difficulty. On





LUCY SHELDON  
From a Miniature by Anson Dickinson







MISS LUCRETIA DEMING  
From a Miniature by Anson Dickinson



one occasion Margaret Hopkins, one of the pupils, went to spend the evening at Aunt Bull's. She was one of the few pupils who roomed at Miss Pierce's own house. A law student of the party put back the hands of the clock so that when one of the number took Margaret back to her house, it was quite shut up. After much knocking, Miss Pierce came to the door in night-cap and gown, candle in hand. (Vanderpoel, p. 289). On another occasion, Caroline Chester, whose acquaintance we have already made, and who was living at the house of Dr. Sheldon, was at a large party at the Wolcott's: "When the clock struck nine, the girl was carrying around the wine, and I too well knew if I was not at home, the family would be displeased. I spoke to the lady who sat next to me and said I must go, and she said it would be extremely improper in her opinion for me who was the youngest in the room to go first, because if I went, all would go. At about half past nine Miss Burr rose to go, and all the company followed her example. It was very cold and as I crossed the green, the wind blew and I thought, what can be keener? but I found when I reached home that a keener blast awaited me, a blast which will never no never be erased from my memory. I opened the door with a trembling hand, no one was in the room, but soon Dr. came. My heart throbbed violently, and he said—why are you home at this late hour? I told my excuse, he interrupted me by saying that it was but a poor excuse. . . . He concluded by saying that if I ever staid out again he certainly would lock the door if it was after nine. . . . and thus did I pay for my whistle". (Vanderpoel, p. 153).

These stories are worth quoting, if only as a picture of Puritan traits, still surviving only 100 years ago. Something of the same character is found in the ejaculation of another pupil, Mary L. Wilbor, in her diary, 1822, "I went to the Post Office with Miss Averill but we did not go in, for it was very much crowded with gentlemen. I do not think it is quite proper for us to go to the post-office so often but still continue going!" (Vanderpoel, p. 235).

Dr. Daniel Sheldon, who was so strict with Caroline Chester, was by no means an exception. He was universally beloved as Good old Doctor Sheldon. "Dear old Dr. Sheldon", wrote Henry Ward Beecher, in *Litchfield Revisited*, 1856, "We began to get well as soon as he came into the house; or if the evil spirit delayed a little, 'Cream-o'-tartar' with hot water poured upon it and sweetened, finished the work. He had learned long before the days of homeopathy, that a doctor's chief business is to keep parents from giving their children medicine".

Of him, E. D. Mansfield wrote: "When he had just graduated from a medical college, he had an attack on his lungs, and was supposed to be fast going into consumption, and was saved by what may be called heroic treatment. He went to Litchfield to practice medicine, which involved much riding on horseback, and he began taking opium, until he took incredible quantities. Nevertheless it cured him; and he recovered from the habit of taking opium as resolutely

and bravely as he had began it. He survived all danger of early death, and lived to be eighty four years of age, quietly and peacefully declining, until he passed from this life as gently as the setting star. One of his sons was secretary of legation in France, and one was a very successful merchant in New York. I was indebted to him for a comforting assurance, when we students were charged with being uncommonly 'fast'. There were more than fifty law students boarding in Litchfield, many of them of wealthy families, and many of them from the South. Of course, there must be some amusement, and often the midnight air resounded with the songs of midnight rioters, and sometimes stories were circulated to the students' disadvantage. After hearing some remarks on the 'fast' students, I met Dr. Sheldon walking, and said to him:

"'Doctor, they say we are the worst students ever were in Litchfield'. 'Pooh! pooh!' said the doctor, 'they are not half so bad as they were in my day'. So I was comforted with the idea that we were not casting shame on those venerable Puritans, who had condescended to become our ancestors. Be this as it may, I greatly enjoyed those evening sleigh rides, and those country suppers, when we would ride off to Goshen, or Harwinton, or other village, and order our turkey and oysters, served up with pickles and cake, and then set Black Caesar to play jigs on a cracked fiddle. But the grand occasions was something beyond this, when we got sleighs and fine horses, and buffalo robes, and foot-stoves, and invited the belles of Litchfield, who never hesitated to go, and set off to the distant village to have a supper and dance. I seldom danced, and some of the girls did not, but there were always some who did, and we had jolly times". (Personal Memories, p. 135).

The school girls came in for the evening rides, though the nine o'clock hour had to be carefully watched. Here is another extract from Caroline Chester under date January 1, 1816. It will be noticed that there was no full school holiday on New Year's day, as indeed there was none on Christmas at Miss Pierce's: "Went to school with a determination to improve all in my power, recited in History without a mistake, in the afternoon went to Mr. Bradley's tavern with Hannah Huntington, John and Mr. O. Wolcott, W. T. and Mary. Had a most delightful ride, returned with Hannah to tea, in the evening took a sleigh ride and returned home about nine. Had a great many wishes that I might have a Happy New Year". (Vanderpoel, p. 152). The two Wolcotts here mentioned were the two sons of Oliver Wolcott Jr.

Another occasional event were the serenades. We quote again from Mary L. Wilbor, July 4, 1822: We were sweetly serenaded by B. and S. and L. as we suppose but we were so very unfortunate as not to hear it. When Miss Mary told us of it this morning we were quite astonished that we could be so stupid as not to hear it. It must have been quite *romantic*, for I never saw a more delightful evening". Fortunately another opportunity came, the very night

before her school career was over, August 29, 1822: "In the night we were awoke by music which appeared to be very near us. We instantly arose and found it to be Mssrs. Loring Burgess and Sullivan with flutes which were played with much skill and sweetness. But all the pleasures of Litchfield could not render it possible for me to remain there and in the morning I took my melancholy departure". (Vanderpoel, p. 240).

Catherine Cebra Webb, another scholar, tells an anecdote in point here: "Old Grove Catlin kept the Hotel in Litchfield, and had a daughter Flora, who was quite a belle. The law students used to quiz him about his daughter's popularity, and he said, "Yes, my daughter Flora is assassinated most every night" (meaning serenaded)". (Vanderpoel, p. 150).

The serenade always involved a flute, whatever other accompaniment might be provided for the singers. This recalls the flute and flageolet which accompanied the girls on their walks, but we have no clue as to who was the player on these daily excursions. Among the village boys at this time, Reuben Merriman, the silversmith, had a son who was a great devotee of the flute. Merriman's shop was next the third Congregational Church, which had just been erected. One day his son climbed the steeple and mystified the whole town with his silvery notes floating down from the heavens.

It would be pleasant to recall here some of the many girls who studied at Miss Pierce's. The school catalogs and other lists preserve the names of some hundreds of the three thousand who attended in the forty years of Miss Sally's own direction; but space prevents any extended notices. Here in 1825 studied Lucy M. Woodruff, who married Origen S. Seymour. Many indeed are Litchfield names, the Buels, the Wolcotts, the Seymours, the Bacons, the Demings. Here too came from Sharon the two Canfield sisters, about 1814, Julia, whom the law students called the Lily of the Valley, from her fair skin and want of color, and Elizabeth Hannah, who was called the Rose of Sharon, from her beauty and her birthplace. She married Frederick Augustus Tallmadge, the son of Col. Tallmadge. He became one of the foremost citizens of New York, President of the State Senate, member of Congress, Recorder of the City, and first Police Commissioner of New York.

One of the most charming of the students must have been Mary Peck, who for a time was instructor in the school and later married E. D. Mansfield. She took a foremost part in the life of the school, in the plays written by Miss Pierce. Unfortunately no diary of hers remains, as her reputation for sprightly fun would have insured its interest to us, but she has left us an album full of autographs of the prominent Litchfield people of 1827. We must not forget the daughters of Dr. Sheldon, Charlotte, who has left us a very delightful diary, especially important for its early date, 1796, and Lucy, who also has left us a diary, 1801. There is a pleasant touch

in one of the latter's letters to her brother, telling of a trip made to Niagara, with her father and Miss Pierce, which will be cherished by all true Litchfielders who feel that travel can show no fairer and better place to live in: "Though we have passed through many pleasant towns and villages yet as we entered Litchfield Miss P. and I agreed that we had not seen one that would compare with it—in neatness—and none pleasanter. Father jumped out of the stage and said 'Home is home, if ever so homely!'" (Vanderpoel, p. 64).

Lucy Sheldon married Theron Beach of Goshen. She lived in her father's house on North Street, and attained the great age of 101 years, having been born June 27, 1788, and having died April 7, 1889. There have been many very old people in Litchfield, but the palm is carried away from all competitors by the mother of Judge Andrew Adams, who, as Morris tells (p. 107): "was born in Stratford, in the year 1698; and died in this town in the year 1803; aged 105. She lived in three centuries; and was of a pleasant temper, amiable manners, temperate habits, and regular in all her deportment". After considering such cases, one can see that the opinion of Seth P. Beers was well-grounded, when he said, that the critical period in the lives of the Litchfield people was between the ages of ninety nine and one hundred years!



## CHAPTER XI.

### AMUSEMENTS.

"The customs and manners of the first settlers of Litchfield were plain and simple. Their clothing was of their own domestic manufacture; and their food of their own raising. Foreign luxuries were scarcely made use of till about the year 1750. Their amusements were of the athletic kind. When young people of both sexes assembled together for amusement, they employed themselves principally in dancing, while one of the company sung. The first use of the violin in this town for a dance was in the year 1748. The whole expense of the amusement, although the young people generally assembled, did not exceed one dollar; out of which the fiddler was paid. When this instance of profusion took place, parents and old people exclaimed, that they should be ruined by the extravagance of the youth. In the year 1798, a ball, with the customary entertainment and variety of music, cost about \$160., and nothing was said about it. Such has been the difference in the manners of Litchfield, within half a century. It is not inferred from this difference, that our youth are at present more vicious than formerly; but it serves to show a material difference in the wealth and character of the people". (Morris, pp. 97-98).

Naturally the Law School and the Female Academy were principally responsible for the great increase in dancing, which carried all Litchfield with it, especially around holiday times. As early as 1786, six years before Miss Pierce's School was opened, Mariann Wolcott wrote to her brother, Frederick: "Litchfield, August 23. ... I have been dancing all the forenoon, and my hand trembles so, I can hardly write intelligibly. We dance again, this evening; and we all wish for your company. Mean time, you are poring over some antiquated subject, that is neither instructive nor entertaining. You cannot say so of our dancing; it is 'an amusement that profits the mind'." (Wolcott Memoirs, p. 324).

After Miss Pierce's School was in full swing, many so-called balls were given in the schoolroom under her patronage, the invitations to attend them being of course highly prized by the law students; they were however much simpler affairs than the Law students gave in return, and probably it was a Law Student dance which cost \$160., in 1798. The Students Balls, as they were usually styled on the invitations, were given in Phelps' Assembly Room, the third story of Phelps' Tavern, which was modernized by Rufus King in the 60's and denominated the United States Hotel, but which has now happily regained its old name of Phelps' Tavern, under the

ownership of Eugene L. Phelps. The Assembly Room was very lofty, the arched ceiling running up under the mansard roof. There was a music balcony at the east end, and around the sides of the room ran a broad and comfortable divan, with red moreen cushions, the seat itself lifting on hinges, in sections of about four feet, the box beneath furnishing a neat and convenient receptacle for head dress, shawls and wraps, the latter usually a cloak, the most favored being a red broadcloth. In this manner, the modern cloakroom was dispensed with.

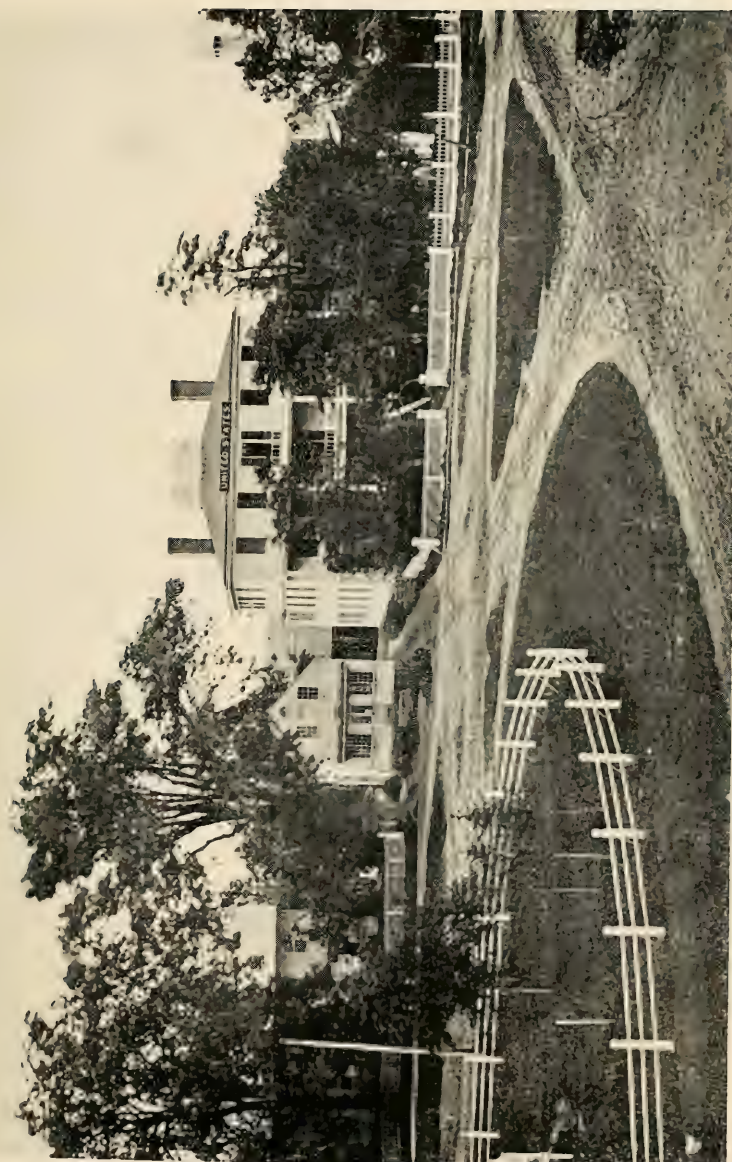
The invitations to the Students Balls were printed on the backs of playing cards, as can be seen by the curious collection of these which is preserved in the rooms of our Historical Society. The backs of cards were then plain white, and were utilized by printers when needing blanks, for lack of anything better. The faces of these playing cards are printed from the coarsest wood engraving, roughly colored.

The balls were given nominally to commemorate anniversaries, and are so designated on the invitations, as Litchfield Ball, New Year's Ball, Birthnight Ball (Feb. 22), Exhibition Ball (in May, at the closing of the winter term of Miss Pierce's school), Independence Ball, Thanksgiving's Ball, and the like. They were in charge of Committees, the members of which issued the tickets, endorsing their names on them, to make themselves responsible for the bearers. The hour named is invariably Six O'clock, alike in summer and in winter, out of deference doubtless to Miss Pierce's nine o'clock curfew rule. The scholars under sixteen from the Academy could not attend, but Miss Pierce compensated for this by furnishing a list of 'eligibles' to the Students' Committee at the beginning of each term.

In addition to these Balls, there were frequent Cotillion parties given in private houses. (J. Deming Perkins, in *Litchfield Enquirer*, April 21, 1904).

No theatricals were ever held in Litchfield till after the Revolution. Puritan principles would have been set too strongly against anything of the kind, even if the experience and talent necessary to carry them out had existed. The only thing at all related were the occasional Exhibitions by the scholars of the many and varied schools which have had their brief existences in the town. Thus, the Monitor for March 30, 1791, has this paragraph: "Yesterday, Mr. Hitchcock's students presented themselves before a public audience, at the meeting house, and exhibited various specimens of improvement in Reading, Writing, and Declamation, to general satisfaction. The lads were from eight to twelve years of age. Select pieces from the purest authors were spoken upon the stage, and with more propriety than the most sanguine could have expected".

After the Revolution and the founding of the Law School, manners changed so much and the infusion of a new spirit was so strong, that it is no surprise to find theatrical performances beginning almost at once.



THE UNITED STATES HOTEL. FORMERLY AND NOW AGAIN KNOWN AS PHILLIPS' TAVERN





DR. DANIEL SHELDON



The first we read of were in May, 1785, when a series of several performances was given, "the principal characters being sustained by students of Yale College". (Kilbourne, p. 163). Of these the Monitor wrote, "Distinguished Merit and literary Ability were so evidently conspicuous and amply displayed on the Occasion, as would have done Honor to a British Theatre".

Miss Pierce's sympathies extending to her scholar's play as well as to their work, she wrote for them not only Histories, as we have already seen, but several plays of a highly religious or moral character. Miss Edgeworth, in her most solemn moments, never perpetrated anything more pointed with stimulating morals. To us it is inconceivable that girls of sixteen could relish depicting the plays of "Ruth", "The Two Cousins", and "Jephthah's Daughter", but they were great events. All lessons and other occupations were given up during the period of preparation. Catherine E. Beecher says of these plays, (Autobiography, Vol. I., pp. 227-229): "A stage was erected, scenery was painted and hung in true theatre style, while all the wardrobes of the community were ransacked for stage dresses.

"On one occasion of this sort father came in late, and the house being packed, he was admitted by the stage entrance. Either from fun or accident, just as he was passing over the stage, the curtain rose, and the law students spied him and commenced clapping. Father stopped, bowed low, amid renewed clapping and laughter, and then passed on to his seat.

"It was in this way that dramatic writing and acting became one of the 'nothings' about which I contrived to be busy and keep others so. Various little dramas were concocted and acted between the school sessions in wintry weather. And after a while, when nearly grown up, we got up in the family, very privately, quite an affair of this kind. I turned Miss Edgeworth's Unknown Friend into a drama, and for some weeks all the children old enough to take part, and several school-girls boarding with us, were busy as bees preparing for rehearsal. It was kept a profound secret till the appointed evening, when father and mother wondered who built a fire in the large parlor, and then still more how it happened that so many neighbors and students called all at once. Then suddenly the dining-room door was opened, and all invited in, while a mysterious curtain was descried at the farther end. The curtain rose, and forthwith the actors appeared, and completed the whole entertainment amid 'thunders of applause'. The next day, however, as we expected, we were told that it was very well done, but we must not do so any more".

The only professional performance that we hear of, was one of 'Shakespeare's Plays' given in Mr. Buel's Ball Room, in November, 1789, by a company of strolling actors. (Kilbourne, p. 164).

If strolling actors were a rare event, it is surprising how many miscellaneous entertainments, or exhibitions, came to Litchfield in

these days. They do not strictly belong in a History of the town, but they give so curious a light on what was considered amusement in those days, and some of them sound so delightfully absurd in themselves, that a few extracts may be quoted, covering the forty years from 1787 to 1827. They are all taken from advertisements, and whether they all materialized or how they were received is now not to be known.

Monitor, July 16, 1787: "By permission—Mr. Pool, The first American that ever exhibited the following Equestrian Feats of Horsemanship on the Continent, Intends performing on Wednesday next in Mr. Buel's orchard, in Litchfield. The performance to begin at half past four o'clock in the afternoon, if the weather will permit, if not, the first fair day after. A clown will entertain the Ladies and Gentlemen between the feats". Seven events are specified, all growing more and more elaborate and wonderful, "after which Mr. Pool will introduce two extraordinary Horses, who at the word of command, will lay themselves down and groan, apparently through extreme sickness and pain. The entertainment will conclude with the noted droll scene, the Taylor riding to Brentford. Tickets may be had at Mr. Buel's and at the place of performance, price 1s.6d. He beseeches the Ladies and Gentlemen, who honor him with their presence, to bring no dogs to the place of performance".

Monitor, November 24, 1789: Advertisement of John Brenon: "In the curious and ingenious art of dancing on the Slack-Wire. Begins precisely at 6 o'clock, tickets at 1s.6d. Children 9d. First he balances a straw or a single tobacco pipe on the wire, second balances a sword on the edge of a wine glass, third goes through a hoop on ditto, fourth beats a drum on ditto; the whole of his performance being collected from different parts of the globe where such amusements are in repute would be too long for this advertisement, his ground balancing being past description. Mrs. Brenon walks the Slack-Wire and performs many other feats never before attempted by an American Lady".

Monitor, February 16, 1791: "To the Curious. To be seen at Charles Marsh's stable, a few rods south of the Court-House, till Thursday evening, Two Camels, Male and Female, from Arabia. These stupendous animals are most deserving the attention of the curious, being the greatest natural curiosities ever exhibited to the public on this continent. They are twenty hands high, have necks four feet long. . . . a large high bunch on their backs, and another under their breasts, in the form of a pedestal, on which they support themselves when lying down, they have four joints in their hind legs, . . . will travel 12 or 14 days without drink, and carry 15 hundred weight. . . . are remarkably harmless and docile, and will lie down and rise at command".

Witness, February 19, 1806: New Museum of Wax Work. "Street respectfully acquaints the ladies and gentlemen of Litchfield and vicinity, that he has opened, at the house of Mr. Charles But-

ler, a large and elegant collection of wax figures, as large as life". Among the various characters advertised are, "an elegant figure of the grand Bashaw of Tripoli", and a "Likeness of Mr. Ephraim Pratt, aged 120 years. This singular man is represented as giving his property to a stranger in preference to his own family".

The same year, in connection with the Litchfield Festival of the Democrats, there was advertised in the Witness, July 30, 1806: In connection with the Republican Celebration of the 6th of August, a live elephant will be exhibited at the house of Grove Catlin from 7 A. M. till sunset. Among other tricks announced, this animal was trained to draw corks, to the astonishment of the Spectators. Was this the original elephant of the G. O. P.?

Poster in the collection of the Litchfield Historical Society, August 17, 1827: "The Aerial Phaeton. The subscriber intends erecting on Litchfield Hill by the first day of September next an Aerial Phaeton. The design of the machine is to afford an agreeable pastime to ladies and gentlemen. It consists of Four Carriages each supported by Two Arms, which are attached to an Axle-tree in the centre. They are turned by a Propelling Machine, and will carry eight persons at once, two in each carriage, who will in regular succession be raised to the distance of Fifty Feet in the air, at a rate of velocity equal to ten miles a minute, or slower, as suits the wishes of those occupying the carriages, and all with perfect ease and safety. This method of recreation and amusement has been highly recommended by the most eminent Physicians in the United States, and will be found the best mode for taking an airing, by those whose lives are sedentary, that can be practised. The place where it is to be erected, is airy, the prospect extending wide, and being relieved by all the variety of hill and dale. Every attention will be paid to company, and all things done 'decently and in order'. John H. Montgomery, Inventor and maker of the Aerial Phaeton. Price 12½ per mile—children, half price".

There were many outdoor amusements. One of the great events of the year was training day, when the local militia had their chief display. Here is an account from the Monitor, October 3, 1792: "Yesterday, the company of Cavalry, commanded by Capt. Elihu Lewis, well mounted and equipt, and two foot companies, under Capts. Stone and Seymour, principally in uniform, mustered on the parade of this town, and diverted several hundred spectators by a variety of evolutions and firings, much to the honor of their respective corps. Harmony and good conduct pervaded the whole, and no accidents occurred. Tho' a day of apparent glee, yet few, if any, were the disciples of Sir Richard—the head and legs of most were capable of performing their accustomed duties".

We are fortunate in having two glimpses of Training Day, from the diaries respectively of one of the girls and one of the law Students. Eliza A. Ogden writes on September 24, 1816: "Friday it was general training and there was no school in the morning. I went down



to the school house and saw them on the parade. In the afternoon I went down to Miss Jones, to see the sham fight. I liked it very well". Younglove Cutler, September 21, 1820, tells the story with his usual more considerable snap: "To begin this great day was powdered. Huzza! here we go, the defenders of our country—but lo my horse has fallen under me & I am with my sword in the dirt & he (careful creature) is bounding in his turn over me without harming a hair of my head—now I am appearing to great advantage—now the girls are falling in love with me—now at dinner. Mr. Such a thing whom Lyman & myself saw at the ball & Mr. Law—both from Georgia there—now it is afternoon & and I am bounding about—now running our people—now my horse is fatigued—now it is night—now I am dancing at the ball..." (Vanderpoel, pp. 165; 200).

But there could not be balls and trainings every day. In winter we have already read of the sleigh rides. There was the skating also, though nothing is said of the school-girls going on the ice, perhaps because of the reputed danger. Our lakes and the river have claimed their victims indeed at all periods, four drownings having occurred prior to 1814, and a relatively large number since. Morris gives an account of these early accidents, pp. 99-100: "The first was John Kilby, a foreigner, who fell out of a small canoe, while crossing the Great Pond alone, on the 10th of September, 1787. The second was a son of James Wickwire, who, on the 11th day of December, 1793, fell through the ice, while playing on the Great Pond with his school-mates. On the evening of the 16th day of December, 1812, William H. Bennett, of South Carolina, aged 16 years, and William Ensign, aged 14, school-mates, then members of Morris Academy, were drowned in the Great Pond. The moon shone brightly. As others were skating, they ran into a glade. An alarm was immediately given, and every exertion made to find their bodies, but they could not be found till they had been under water about one hour. Attempts were then made to resuscitate them, but in vain. They were amiable youths, fond of each other, and in a very melancholy manner united in death".

In summer, there were walks, occasional driving excursions, trips on Bantam Lake, not to speak of the earlier and more rural Husking parties, Apple-bees, Raisings, Quiltings, Spinning parties, and of course the Weddings.

In the days of the Academy, the walks were principally to Prospect Hill, where there was then, as later, an Echo Rock, and to Love's Altar, a shady nook by the stream below the hill back of the Frederick Wolcott house. Mary Peck, of the Pierce School, has left us delightful colored sketches of these in her album, preserved in our Historical Society. They are well worth looking up in the reproductions given in Mrs. E. N. Vanderpoel's *Chronicles*, pp. 246 and 248.

"Mr. Lord had built a bowling alley on the west side of the Prospect Hill road for the benefit of the pupils of both schools, so we can picture these walks combined with lively bowling matches,



much like those of later days that were held in the old bowling alley, back of the United States Hotel". (Vanderpoel, p. 32).

Finally Bantam Lake offered its attractions, made available by a few boats to be rented for fishing, and occasionally by more pretentious craft for excursions. The following advertisements are reprinted from Vanderpoel's *Chronicles*, p. 33:

Monitor, August 24, 1795: "This subscriber informs the public, and particularly those who either for health or pleasure are disposed to enjoy the water, that he has thoroughly repaired that commodious, prime sailing Pleasure Boat, the Pond Lily; and that she will ply from the northern to the southern shore every day in the week, (wind and weather permitting). She has good accommodations for Passengers; and Ladies and Gentlemen, wishing to indulge in a few hours of healthy and agreeable pastime, will be cheerfully waited upon. Select companis from the town and country, are solicited to afford themselves this pleasant relaxation from business; and on seasonable notice to the Skipper of the Boat, every required attention is promised them, by their devoted, humble servant. James Lee".

"The new and elegant Horse boat, Bantam, having been recently built for the express purpose of accommodating pleasure parties on the Bantam Lake is now completely prepared to accommodate ladies and gentlemen who may wish to take advantage of this safe and neat mode of taking a trip upon our pleasant waters. Parties wishing to engage the boat for a trip, must give two days notice to the subscriber residing at the north end of the Lake. Harmon Stone, Litchfield, June 27, 1826".

"Bantam Lake, (Great Pond, so-called), being a place of much resort, the subscriber has fitted up a small establishment, located on the shore of the northeast extreme of said Lake, in neat order, for the accommodation of those gentlemen and ladies who may wish to spend a few hours on and about this beautiful sheet of water. Frederick A. Marsh, May 28, 1829".

## CHAPTER XII.

### INDUSTRIES AND MERCHANTS.

It was not till the close of Litchfield's Golden Age that the centralizing tendency of Connecticut industries became marked. Prior to 1840, all the hill towns of the State had a number and variety of local industries far in excess of what they ever had after that date. In Litchfield this was peculiarly the case, because of the important position occupied by the town at the intersection of several main lines of travel. Elizabeth C. Barney Buel read a most comprehensive paper on the Industries of Litchfield County before the Scientific Association in October 1904, from which the following outlines of some of the more important and interesting activities have been taken.

A general view of local industries is given in the *Gazetteer of the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island*, 1810. "The most important manufacture in the town is that of iron, of which there are 4 forges, 1 slitting mill and 1 nail factory. There are 1 cotton mill, 1 oil mill, 1 paper mill, 2 cording (carding?) machines, 6 fulling mills, 5 grain mills, 18 saw mills, 5 large tanneries, besides several on a small scale; 2 comb factories, 2 hatter's shops, 2 carriage makers, 1 cabinet furniture maker, 3 saddlers, and a number of house carpenters, joiners, smiths and other mechanics". Morris, p. 89, repeats this list, adding "1 machine for making wooden clocks and 1 cotton manufactory".

This list, however, by no means exhausts the catalog of Litchfield's industries, even at that early date. The advertisements in the early *Monitors* and in the other newspapers reflect an active commercial life beginning at once after the close of the Revolution. Certainly the army stores gathered in Litchfield during the War involved the presence here of many merchants and emphasized the important geographical position of the town, as it then was. Situated at the intersection of the road from Boston and Hartford to New York with that from New Haven to Albany, the market, at least for certain commodities, was much more than a local one. In the first issue of the *Monitor*, December 21, 1784, there are only three Litchfield advertisements: that of William Russell, stocking weaver, from Norwich, England, who announced that he was ready to make "worsted, cotton and linen Jacket and Breeches Patterns, men's and women's Stockings, Gloves and Mitts"; that of Zalmon Bedient, barber, who offered cash for human hair, at his shop a few rods north of the court-house; and that of Cornelius Thayer, who carried on the business of brazier at the shop of Col. Miles

Beach in North Street, at which shop the jeweler's and silversmith's business "is carried on as usual by said Beach". Ten or fifteen years later these three pioneer advertisements had increased in number to fill three columns or more, setting forth enterprises of every variety.

The iron industry is mentioned by the Gazetteer as of the chief importance. One foundry stood near the site of Miss Van Winkle's house on North Street, owned by Russell Hunt and Brothers. The ore was brought from Kent and Salisbury, in winter on sleds and in summer on pack horses in leather bags.

There was a slitting mill in Bantam, where the first rolling and slitting for nails was done by machinery by a secret process. Bantam can also boast the first machine-made harness buckles.

In Milton there was a puddling furnace owned by Hugh Welch. In 1860 this was bought by one Hinchcliff, and converted into the shears shop.

A forge was located in Bantam near the site of the factory of Flynn and Doyle.

In the Monitor, February 15, 1797, is told the first industrial disaster of the town. "On Monday the pressure of water and ice, on the stream leading out of the Great Pond, was so great that it swept off the dam, bridge and iron-house belonging to Mssrs. Wadsworth and Kirby, at their slitting and rolling mill. Their loss is estimated at \$2,500, including the suspension of their business the present season. The damage to the public at large will be much greater than the individual loss. The great quantity of Cash put in motion by this factory has a sensible effect on the circulating medium of this and the neighboring towns. All persons concerned in the manufacture of Iron have strong reasons to lament this misfortune". Fortunately, a notice in the issue of February 27 announces that by the great exertions of the firm and "the generous assistance of their friends" they "have nearly repaired the damage and that on Thursday of the present week they will be again in motion".

In Bantam lived a certain Phineas Smith, nailor, who advertised in the Monitor for "one or two faithful Workmen at hammer'd Nails". These hammered nails were possibly the hand-made nails that are pulled with such difficulty out of the oaken beams of our oldest houses. They were of such value that carpenters of old never threw them away, but carefully straightened out the used ones and preserved them for future use.

The building industry had a famous representative in Giles Kilbourn, who built the church erected in 1796 on the hill opposite the Burying Ground at Bantam by the seceding Episcopalians of the western part of the town, who, during the ministry of Rev. David Butler, organized the Second Episcopal Society of Litchfield. Giles Kilbourn died September 13, 1797, and his funeral was the first

in the new church. He built the houses now occupied by Mrs. Vanderpoel, Mrs. Harrison Sanford and Charles H. Coit.

Joiners were frequently advertised for by our old cabinet makers, many of whom signed their names to their work, like artists or silver-smiths. They had a right to do so, for their work was hand-wrought and artistic. One of the most noted of these men was Silas E. Cheney, who died in 1820. David Bulkley and George Dewey were partners, two doors west of the County House, and their carving became famous far beyond the limits of the township. They were succeeded about 1839 by Bulkley and Cooke.

John Mattocks, a Windsor chair maker, half a mile west of the center, advertised in 1797, taking in exchange for his work "Bass wood Plank proper for chair seats". Near him and at the same period, Nathaniel Brown, house joiner, made "Windsor, fiddle-back, dining-room, parlor, kitchen and children's chairs".

Also in 1797 appears the advertisement of Oliver Clark and Ebenezer Plumb Jr., who "Have taken the shop lately occupied by Mr. Ozias Lewis, in the main South Street, a few rods below Mr. Kirby's,—where they intend (if properly encouraged) to furnish every description of Cabinet Work, elegant and common to fancy on agreeable terms. They make Heart-back Cherry Chairs from 7 to 9 dollars each; Windsor ditto from 8s. to 15s. each. Pungs and Sleighs, of any model, on short notice. All kind of Stuff fit for Cabinet or Shop work, received in payment". The taking of produce or raw material in payment for manufactured articles is a frequent feature of the old advertisements, due to the scarcity of circulating coin in the years following the Revolution. In 1799, Oliver Clark was at work alone at the same shop, advertising "swell'd and straight sideboards, bureaus, chairs, etc., of mahogany, cherry and other stuff highly finished; and finishing buildings in the most approved style of architecture".

The trade of carriage making was a prominent one. There was a carriage factory at Milton owned by Ralph P. Smith's father and uncle, located below the Blake Grist-mill. At a very much earlier period coaches were made at a factory on Chestnut Hill, every part of the carriage being manufactured on the spot. In 1839, William Clark manufactured "Carriages, Pedlar and Pleasure Wagons of all kinds" to order "one door north of the Congregational Church", and in the same year Ambrose Norton had a carriage shop further up North Street on the west side. North Street was essentially the business street in those days, and the street also on which the greatest merchants lived, especially Benjamin Tallmadge and Julius Deming, each of whom had his store immediately south of his house. In his Statistical Account, Morris enumerates the carriages in use, presumably in the spring of 1812 as "1 phaeton, 1 coachee and 46 two-wheel pleasure carriages!" and adds, p. 92, "Waggon, drawn either by one or two horses, are much used by the inhabitants. The first pleasure carriage, a chair, was brought into this town by



Mr. Matthews, mayor of New York, in the year 1776, and is still in use here: the first umbrella in the year 1772".

Still another carriage factory was located at the foot of West Hill, before the tan-yard which was there for so many years.

Tanning was an extensive industry, together with other manufactures involving the use of skins and leather. Caleb Bacon advertised, *Monitor*, May 29, 1799, for a boy "14 or 15 years old as an Apprentice to the Shoemaking and Tanning Business". Morocco leather was produced here in those energetic days, and used for hats, witness another Ad. of the same Caleb Bacon, in the *Witness*, July 1, 1806: "The subscriber takes this method to inform his customers and the public that he is now carrying on the morocco manufactory in Litchfield half-a-mile north of the Court House on the great road leading from New Haven to Albany, where he offers for sale in large or small quantities Rowan Morocco suitable for Shoes or Hats, finished in the neatest manner by some of the best workmen on the continent. Also a few real Goat Skins, Kid Bindery, etc., Cheap for cash or raw materials, such as Oak and Hemlock bark, Hides, calf and sheep skins, sumac of this year's growth (the time to crop which is July and August) and must be dried like hay free from rain or any wet. Hatters and shoemakers will do well to call and see for themselves".

There were saddlers and harness makers in large numbers. But leather was used for many other purposes less to be expected. Erastus Lord made the first leather pocket-books in this country. "He moved to Litchfield", Vanderpoel, p. 24, "and continued to make them at his house on the south side of Prospect Street, where Mr. MacMartin now lives". His son, Augustus A. Lord worked with him and later by himself, and finally moved to the center and confined himself to book-binding. For a time his business was very varied, as shown by an advertisement in the *Enquirer*, May 6, 1844: "Blank Book Manufactory. A. A. Lord manufactures to order, Records, Ledgers, Journals, Day Books, Waste Books, Grand List Books, Writing Books, Memorandums, etc. etc. at his manufactory in Prospect St. He also manufactures Pocket Books of every description, Among which are Pocket Books, Portfolios, Bill Books, Memorandum and Merchants' Pocket Books, Gents' and Ladies' Dressing Cases, etc. Book Binding in all its variety executed in the most thorough manner. All of the above articles made of the best of stock, and the workmanship equal to any in the country".

In the *Monitor*, November 3, 1795, Thomas Trowbridge advertised for "two or three journeymen Shoemakers who if steady and faithful will find immediate employ and sufficient wages". His business was extensive, as is evidenced by an anecdote told of Col. Tallmadge. The latter was most particular as to his dress, and continued to wear the small clothes and long stockings of the Revolutionary period long after other men had donned trousers. A necessary accompaniment of this costume was a pair of elegant high

top boots. He once took such a pair to Trowbridge's shop and asked him if he could repair them. Mr. Trowbridge assured him that he could, but the Colonel was still doubtful as to his ability: "I bought those boots in New York", he said, "and they are exceedingly choice". "And I made those boots in Litchfield", was Trowbridge's answer, "and sold them to the New York trade. I guess I can mend them!" And the Colonel was satisfied that he could.

Hats were made not only out of Morocco, but from beaver and lamb's wool. Turning again to the Monitor, August 15, 1798; "Shear'd Lamb's Wool, Proper for Hatter's use, paid for in cash at the store of Timothy and Virgil Peck;—who manufacture and have for sale Hats of prime and inferior quality". And just below this: "Sam. Seymour and Ozias Seymour" also announce that they have beaver hats for sale and pay cash for lamb's wool and for "Lambskins with the wool on". There were fulling mills beyond the North Street iron foundry, where wool was fulled "for hats made and sold on South Street by Ozias and Moses Seymour. This hat factory was afterwards moved to the west of the town and owned by Braman and Kilbourne". (Vanderpoel, p. 24).

Wool was a very important commodity; and wool carding had to be carefully supervised. In the Witness, June 10, 1806, we find S. Strong & Co., announcing that they had "again employed Jerry Radcliffe to superintend their carding machine, half a mile south of Capt. Bradley's Tavern. As Mr. Radcliffe's skill in the business of carding is well known in this neighborhood nothing need be said on that point. Our customers are informed that their work will be warranted well done, conditioned that those who have cause of complaint inform us previous to spinning the wool—otherwise no allowance will be made. Wool for carding may be left at Moses Seymour Jr's store or at the Machine". In 1805, Jerry Radcliffe had been "carrying on the business of cloth dressing at Marsh's Mills, half a mile east of the Court House".

"Wool spinning", continues Mrs. Buel, whose notes we are closely following, "was still done at home, although these other steps in the process of cloth-making, such as the preparation of the wool for the wheel, the dyeing of the yarn and the weaving of the fabric had already begun to pass into the factory or the hands of specialists". Wool wheels are advertised: "Notice to Farmers. Cradle and Wheel Manufactory. The subscriber has located himself one mile and a half west of the Court House on Harris' Plain, so-called, where he has on hand Grain Cradles with Scythes or without. Also, Wool Wheels and Reels. On hand, a few dozen Patent Wheel Heads, with Cast Steel Spindles. . . . Elias Bissell".

There are many advertisements of the dyeing business. At the clothier's works of Sam. Nevins about a mile north of the Meeting House, cotton and linen yarn were dyed blue. In 1806 (Witness) "Ruth Cooper having obtained a complete skill in blue dyeing from

Louis Perkins, proposes to carry on the Business in the East part of this town”.

Marsh's Mills, at the foot of East Hill, were owned by Ebenezer Marsh and later by Thomas Addis, Clothier, who, according to his advertisements, “executes all branches of the trade including weaving”.

In the last years of the eighteenth century we get an interesting announcement in the Monitor, December 2, 1798, showing not only the low ebb of the clothiers' business, but an early attempt at a commercial pooling of prices: “Notices to Clothiers. The Clothiers of the County of Litchfield are requested to meet at Mr. David Buel's, in Litchfield, on the third Monday of December instant at 1 o'clock, P. M. The suffering interest of the trade, in common with other artizans, by means of their labour bearing an inadequate proportion to the rate of Produce, etc., requires immediate remedy; and the object of the meeting being principally to establish uniformity in prices, it is hoped every person interested will punctually and pointedly attend”.

David Buel, here mentioned, was a man of many enterprises. He was for a time joint publisher with Thomas Collier of the Monitor; dealt in ladies' Stuff Shoes; exchanged sole leather for cash or flax; and was the Litchfield Agent for one of the State lotteries, for raising money for public works, as was then the unquestioned custom in pious Connecticut.

Flax was still abundantly raised. Ephraim Kirby and Benjamin Doolittle owned an oil-mill where they “exchange the best Linseed Oil for Flax Seed”. (Monitor, January, 1798). In 1805 Moses Seymour Jr., also ran an Oil Mill.

There was a cotton mill near the foot of South Hill, owned by Samuel Sheldon, a brother of Colonel Elisha Sheldon, and near it was a papier mache factory. Julius Deming started a paper mill in Bantam, in which Elisha Horton, who took part in the Boston Tea Party, was the foreman. Samples of the paper made by him are in the collections of the Litchfield Historical Society.

In Milton there was a button mill opposite the grist mill, while grist mills were dotted throughout the country. “Anti-Come-Off Coat and Pantaloon Buttons, a new article”, were advertised at A. P. P. Camp's, in the Enquirer, June 3, 1841, but history is silent as to whether they were locally made.

About 1842 Simeon S. Batterson came to Litchfield with his family from New Preston and, with his eldest son James G. Batterson, established and for some years maintained a marble yard on the East side of Meadow Street. Specimens of their work can still be seen in some of the Litchfield houses. From Litchfield they removed to Hartford, where James G. Batterson became one of the leading business men. He organized, and for many years was President of, the Traveler's Insurance Company. He was the builder of our present State Capitol, and of many other public buildings in Hartford and elsewhere.



Record also survives of a brick-yard half-a-mile west of the Court House, where in 1798 John Russell offered bricks in lots of from 15,000 to 50,000. There was also a piano factory about a mile west of town; at least a depression in the ground is shown where such a factory is reputed to have stood.

It is a pity that the memory of many such curious old enterprises is quite lost. One would also like to know what became of the silk worms which Jedediah Strong advocated in prose and verse, some of which he claimed to be raising at his Elm Ridge house.

A highly successful business at one time was that of the gold and silversmiths. Samuel Shethar, Isaac Thompson, Reuben Meriman, Timothy Peck, William Ward and Benjamin Hanks were the best known of these workers in gold, silver and brass. Some of their silver spoons are still in use. In 1903, the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter, D. A. R., held a large and interesting exhibit of locally owned silver, including specimens by several of these men. They were nearly all active somewhere between 1795 and 1805. Among many other things, Shethar manufactured those silver Eagles, the nation's arms, which were the emblem of the Federalists and were worn in the hat by both men and women during the bitter war between the Federalists and the Democrats. Undoubtedly these sold well in Litchfield in 1806. Another of these men, Benjamin Hanks came from Mansfield, Conn., to this town in 1778, remaining only till 1785, when he returned to Mansfield. While here he was a clock and watch maker, and contracted for and put up the first clock in the city of New York: on the old Dutch Church, Nassau and Liberty Streets. The clock was unique, having a wind-mill attachment, his own patent, for winding itself up.

We should not overlook the many industries of Northfield in the old days. These include, since 1798, spinning wheels, clocks, tin-ware, linen goods, nails, brick, cider brandy, flutes, wagons, carriages, coffins, leather goods, trysquares, clothespins, knitting machines, butter and cheese, harness snaps, and cutlery, of which only the last survives.

To sum up the commercial industries of the Golden Age in Litchfield we are fortunate in having an accurate summary of those still active in 1845, at the very end of the period. This is found in a book prepared by Daniel P. Tyler, Secretary of State at Hartford, from the returns of the local assessors, entitled "Statistics of Certain Branches of Industry in Connecticut for the year ending October 1, 1845". The abbreviations used are: C. for capital; E. for employee; F. for female; M. for male; and V. for value.

Woolen Mills, 2; machinery, 2 sets; wool consumed 11,000 lbs; satinet m'd, 11,000 yds; V. \$8,000; flannel m'd, 2,981 yds; V. \$1,490.50; woolen yarn m'd, 500 lbs; V. \$300; C. \$6,000; M.E. 7; F.E. 3.

Casting Furnace, 1; ware cast, 30 tons; V. \$2,250; C. \$5,000; E. 7.



Paper Factory, 1; stock consumed V. \$3,500; paper m'd V. \$8,000; C. \$15,000; E. 10.

Musical Instrument Factory, 1; V. of m's, \$8,000; C. \$15,000; E. 16.

Saddle, Harness and Trunk Factory, 1; V. of m's, \$1,000; C. \$500; E. 2.

Hat and Cap Factory, 1; No. m'd 2,000; V. \$3,000; C. \$1,000; E. 6.

Car, Coach and Wagon Factories, 7; V. of m's, \$21,900; C. \$10,900; E. 31.

Soap and Candle Factory, 1; soap m'd, 100 bbls; V. \$300; tallow candles m'd, 600 lbs; V. \$50; E. 1.

Chair and Cabinet Factory, 1; V. of m's, \$3,000; C. \$2,000; E. 5.

Tin Factories, 2; V. of m's, \$4,000; C. \$2,000; E. 3.

Linseed Oil Mill, 1; oil m'd, 2,000 gallons; V. \$2,000; C. \$2,000; E. 1.

Tannery, 1; hides tanned, 1,765; leather m'd, V. \$5,605; C. \$5,650; E. 7.

Boots m'd, 1,286 pairs; shoes, 2,167 pairs; V. \$7,500; E. 20.

Bricks m'd, 110,000; V. \$500; E. 1.

Snuff, Tobacco and Segars m'd, V. \$1,400; E. 2.

Lumber prepared for market, V. \$3,079.

Firewood prepared for market, 4,549 cords; V. \$9,098.

Flouring Mills, 4; C. \$8,000.

Marble made into grave stones, V. \$3,000; E. 3.

Suspenders m'd, 6,300 doz; V. \$26,100; C. \$5,000; M. E. 9; F. E. 50.

Mittens and Gloves m'd, 800 doz; V. \$4,800; C. \$4,000; E. 4.

Sperm oil consumed in factories, 192 gals; V. \$192.

Sheep, all sorts, 3,278; V. \$2,570; wool produced, 15,714 lbs; V. \$5,499.90.

Horses, 565; V. \$16,273; neat cattle, 4,969; V. \$51,231; swine, 2,714; V. \$21,604.

Indian Corn, 24,777 bu; V. \$20,564.91; wheat, 55 bu. V. \$82.50; rye, 8,748 bu, V. \$7,260.84; barley, 226 bu. V. \$136.80; oats, 29,920 bu; V. \$12,566.40; potatoes, 46,713 bu; V. \$11,678.25; other esculents, 36,713 bu; V. \$6,118.83.

Hay, 7,830 tons; V. \$93,960; flax, 1,046 lbs; V. \$104.60.

Fruit, 32,710 bu; V. \$400; buckwheat, 9,316 bu; V. \$4,658.

Butter, 126,314 lbs; V. \$18,947.10; cheese, 352,262 lbs; V. \$21,135; honey, 1,000 lbs; V. \$100; beeswax, 100 lbs; V. \$28.

Benjamin Tallmadge, Julius Deming and Moses Seymour were perhaps the three largest merchants in the town. The picturesque figure of Col. Tallmadge directs attention to him in particular.

Henry Ward Beecher wrote of him: "How well do we remember the stately gait of the venerable Colonel of Revolutionary memory! We don't recollect that he ever spoke to us or greeted us,—not because he was austere or unkind, but from a kind of military reserve. We thought him good and polite, but should as soon have

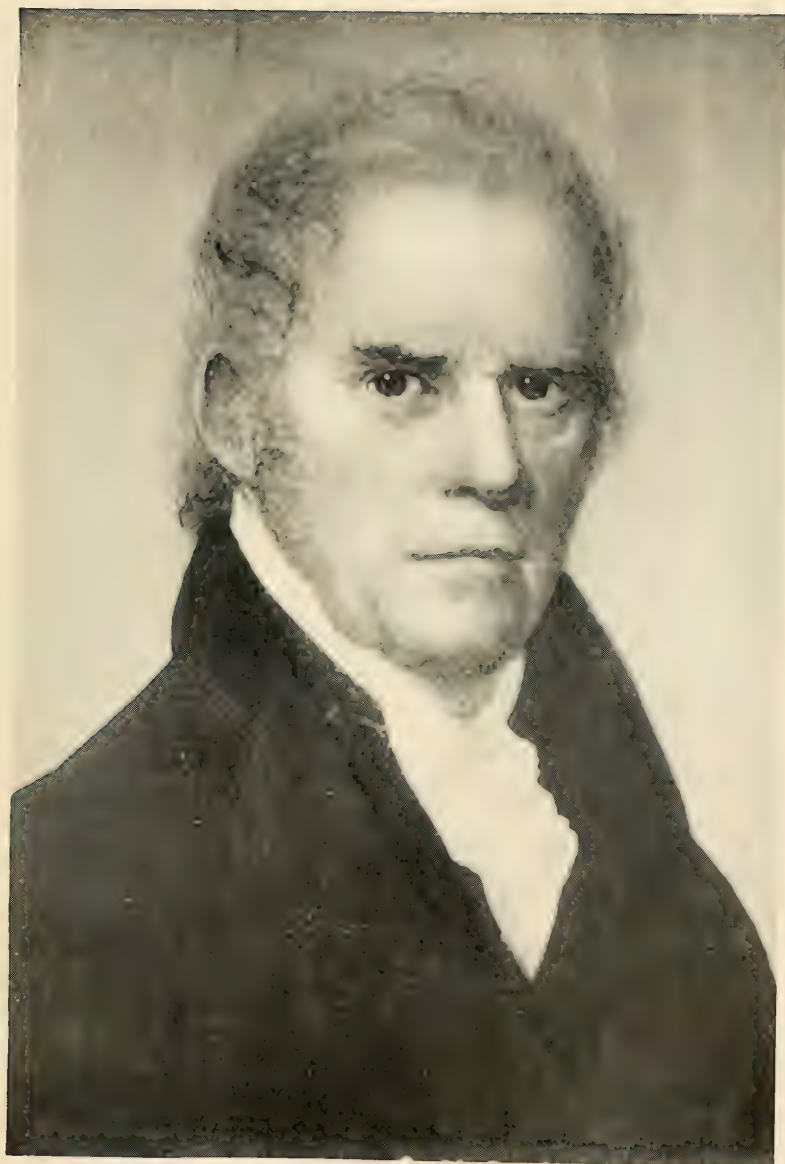
thought of climbing the church steeple as of speaking to one living so high and venerable above all boys!" (Litchfield Revisited, 1856).

Col. L. W. Wessells has also left us a boy's impression of him: "When a small boy, I have often seen him on horseback, a remarkably handsome figure and splendid horseman. He wore small clothes and top boots, with shirt ruffled at bosom and wrists, and we urchins looked upon him as something very nearly God-like. He made me a present of the first cock and hen of the Poland variety ever brought to Litchfield, and I was, of course, inflated with pride and the envy of every boy far and near". (Connecticut Quarterly, September, 1896).

In his Personal Memories, p. 135, E. D. Mansfield wrote of him: "He was one of the gentlemen of the old school, with the long queue, white-topped boots, and breeches. After the war he had retired to Litchfield, and was one of the most marked as well as dignified men who appeared in that aristocratic town. When the Western Reserve of Ohio was set off to Connecticut and sold for the school fund, he became a large owner of lands there, and a township was named after him".

Col. Tallmadge was in business with his brother, John Tallmadge, who lived in Warren, and was postmaster there. The wide range of goods covered in their importations is proved by a single one of their many advertisements in the Monitor, November 7, 1792:

"Cheap Goods! The subscribers having supplied their stores at Litchfield and Warren, with a large and general assortment of European and West-Indian Goods, now offer them for Sale at a very small advance for pay in hand, or on a short credit. Besides a great variety of other articles, not mentioned, they have on hand a large assortment of: Twill'd plain and striped Coating; Superfine and low priced Broadcloths; London Kersemiers; Scarlet, crimson and green Baizes, double and single; Yellow and white Flannels; Rattinets, Shalloons, Antiloons; Durants and Tammies, twill'd and plain, of various colors; Moreens, Taboreens, Joans; Black Russell, Callimanco, Sattinette, Lastings, Velvets, Thicksetts and Cords, Twil'd and plain; Fustians, Janes; Hat Linings, Scarlet, blue and light colored Slagg; Wildbores, Cordurett and Camblett of various colors; Elegant tambour'd vest patterns; Toylonetts; silk, cotton, hemp and thread Hose, ribb'd and plain; Chintzs, Callicoes, Furniture ditto, Printed Linen, diversified in figure and quality; Best India Sattin, wide and narrow, twill'd, plain and vellum Modes; Sarsanettes, silk and thread, wide and narrow, edging and laces; Chinz and purple Shawls; Ribbons of all colors and qualities; Furs and Trimmings; etc., etc., etc., any or all of which will be sold by the piece, pattern, or single yard. Also a very general assortment of Ironmongery and Hardware; a very extensive and general assortment of crockery and Glass Ware; 6 by 8 and 7 by 9 Window Glass; Looking Glasses handsomely gilt; large Family and smaller Bibles; Testaments and Psalm Books; Websters Institutes, by the gross,



JULIUS DEMING









THE LANDENS. JOHN S. DEMING HOUSE, 1793

dozen or single book; Allum; Copperas; White and Red Lead; Spanish White and Spanish Brown; Redwood; Logwood; Fustick and Nickaragua; Hyson, Shushong and Bohea Teas, by the chest or smaller quantity; Loaf and Brown Sugars, by the Hund. or lb.; Chocolate; Ginger; Pimento; Pepper; Snuff; Tobacco; Cotton Wool; Indigo; Old Spirits, St. Croix, St. Vincents and Grenada Rum, Wine of different qualities, and molasses, Best Holland and Geneva, do Nantz Brandy, by the Hogshead, pipe, bbl, or gal. For further particulars please to call on the subscribers, Benj. Tallmadge and Co."

Both Col. Tallmadge and Julius Deming made their importations direct from abroad, which was very unusual in those days, and would be enterprising today. Together, on one occasion, they imported a cargo of horses from England, to improve the stock in this country. Julius Deming himself went abroad to select goods; on his trip home he was wrecked, and wisely decided never to go near salt water again. This did not prevent his joining with Oliver Wolcott Jr. and Col Tallmadge, however, in a far-reaching enterprise, the Litchfield China Trading Co. This was after the expiration of Oliver Wolcott's term as Secretary of the Treasury of the United States in 1800, when he took up his residence in New York. Each partner contributed an equal share, but the Company was directed principally from New York. They purchased the ship *Trident*, as their first vessel, and commenced shipping Pillar Dollars, the only available export to China at the time, bringing back the usual products of that country. The company was a successful one, but was dissolved in 1814, possibly as a result of the Embargo Act of 1812-13.

After this Oliver Wolcott returned to Litchfield, and was active in various enterprises with his brother, Frederick Wolcott. They were associated in the improvement of agriculture and the introduction of improved breeds of stock, particularly the Devon and Durham cattle and the Merino sheep, of both of which they were importers. (Wolcott Memorial, p. 318).

His services as Governor again interrupted his commercial ventures at home, but when his terms aggregating ten years were finished he once more undertook an extensive experiment. This was the manufacture of woolen cloth at Wolcottville (Torrington). Although this was disastrous financially, it was the foundation of the present industrial prominence of our neighboring borough. The experiment terminated in a lawsuit, which was tried in Litchfield before Judge David Daggett. The Judge was an ardent Federalist, and the jury was opposed politically to Wolcott. It was at this trial that Judge Gould made his last appearance as Counsel. He conducted the case against Wolcott, and carried the Jury with him. Judge Origen S. Seymour, then a young man, attended the trial, and felt that Judge Daggett's conduct of the case was partisan. On reviewing the matter, however, in later years, he not only modified, but reversed his opinion". (Book of Days, p. 184).

## NEWSPAPERS.

The following notices of the several newspapers issued in Litchfield are taken from the Catalogue of the Litchfield Historical Society, 1906:

**WEEKLY MONITOR AND AMERICAN ADVERTISER.** Collier and Copp, Printers. Began Dec. 21, 1784. The Monitor, with variation in name and size of paper, continued for twenty two years. On Sept. 15, 1788, Thomas Collier, who had been for some years the sole printer, associated with him one Adam. April 27, 1789, the partnership was dissolved and the paper suspended until Nov. 17, 1789, when Collier again became the printer. Jan. 18, 1792, the Monitor was published by Collier and Buel, who continued until the last issue of the paper, 1807.

**WITNESS.** Selleck Osborn and Timothy Ashley, Editors and Publishers. Began Aug. 14, 1805. Discontinued, 1807.

**LITCHFIELD GAZETTE.** Charles Hosmer and Goodwin, Printers. Began March 13, 1808. Discontinued May 17, 1809.

**LITCHFIELD JOURNAL.** Published by I. Bunce. This was a non-partisan paper, but proved unsuccessful, and upon May 12, 1819, the Litchfield Republican was commenced. In 1821 the Miscellany, in continuation of the Litchfield Republican appeared in a smaller size sheet than the former paper. This continued until Feb. 2, 1822, when 'for one year from this date the profits arising from the circulation of this paper are bestowed on a young man of this village in order to assist in completing his education'. The Miscellany, or Juvenile Folio, was published on Feb. 9, 1822. The following is taken from the 6th of March 1822: 'The Miscellany or Juvenile Folio is published at I. Bunce's bookstore by the proprietor. The profits of the circulation are for one year transferred to Henry Ward. Terms, 87½ cents at the office. No paper to be discontinued until arrearages are paid'. On July 31, 1822, H. Ward 'abandons the paper' and for a time there was none published. I. Bunce, as publisher and editor, on Sept. 9, 1822, commenced the publication of the American Eagle, which was moved to New Haven on March 7, 1826.

**THE DEMOCRAT.** Melzar Gardner, Publisher. Began Nov. 3, 1833. Discontinued Sept. 13, 1834.

**THE SUN.** John M. Baldwin, Publisher and Printer. This paper commenced on Feb. 7, 1835, and continued under the same management until Sept. 9, 1837, when S. G. Hayes became printer and publisher. From June 9, to Oct. 6, 1838, it was discontinued, and the last issue of the paper is April 20, 1839.



**THE MERCURY.** C. E. Morse and Co., Printers. This paper began its existence on Jan. 16, 1840, and on Aug. 20, 1840, was sold to Josiah Giles, who became editor and publisher. The Mercury was discontinued on April 7, 1842. Josiah Giles began on Jan. 20, 1844, the publication of the Democratic Watchman, which was discontinued the same year.

**LITCHFIELD REPUBLICAN.** J. K. Averill began the New Milford Republican in 1845, and the next year moved to Litchfield where he continued his paper under the name of Litchfield Republican. He afterwards, 1856, moved to Falls Village, and continued his paper as the Housatonic Republican. After he moved away, W. F. and G. H. Baldwin continued the paper as publishers and proprietors. With the 13th number Henry Ward appeared as editor, but in 1853 Albert Stoddard became editor and publisher, with Henry Ward as associate. On Sept. 14, 1854, Franklin Hull was publisher, with himself and Henry Ward as editors, and on April 4, 1856, Franklin Hull assumed full charge as editor and publisher.

**LITCHFIELD SENTINEL.** Published in Litchfield by John D. Champlin Jr., as editor. Vol. No. 1, is dated 1865. Champlin continued as editor until February 2, 1866, when he associated with him George H. Baldwin, who published the paper. On February 3, 1867 Champlin again took charge of the paper and continued it alone until April 30, 1869, when Solon B. Johnson took up the paper as editor. John R. Farnham bought the paper in 1869, and continued the publication until May 7, 1875.

**THE LITCHFIELD ENQUIRER.** The Litchfield County Post was established in 1825 by Stephen S. Smith from Poultney, Vt. He disposed of the establishment to Joshua Garrett, who after publishing the Post for a few weeks sold out to Henry Adams. In 1829, Mr. Adams changed the name of the paper to the Litchfield Enquirer, which it still bears. During this time it was a five-column folio. It was the only regular paper published in Litchfield county. Mr. Adams was drowned while fishing in Bantam Lake and was the only editor who died "in the harness". He was immediately succeeded by his brother, Chas. Adams, in 1843. In October, 1845, the paper was sold to Payne Kenyon Kilbourne, who conducted it until "ill health caused by many arduous duties caused him to sell" in March, 1853. The new proprietor, H. W. Hyatt, changed the heading from plain block style to the same as the text which has been used ever since. In March, 1856, the size was changed to a larger sheet. On Sept. 4, 1856, he sold to Edward C. Goodwin. On May 1, 1858, Chas. Adams again took the editorship and associated with him Henry E. B. Betts. Oct. 13, 1859, James Humphrey Jr., bought the paper, and his foreman was Alexander B. Shumway, who held that position under succeeding

owners practically up to the time of his death, February, 1912, excepting when he was in service during the Civil War. Mr. Humphrey enlarged the paper to seven columns, a little smaller than the present paper. In 1865, the paper passed into the hands of Wing and Shumway, under whose management it remained for one year, when Geo. A. Hickox bought the paper and secured Mr. Wing as editor. One year later Mr. Hickox commenced the duties of proprietor and editor, which he continued for twenty five years and changed its size. In 1891 he sold the paper to C. R. Duffie Jr. In October, 1894, it was sold to George C. Woodruff, who has since continued the paper. Mr. Woodruff immediately changed the make-up of the paper and in February, 1918, enlarged it to its present size of eight pages of six columns each.

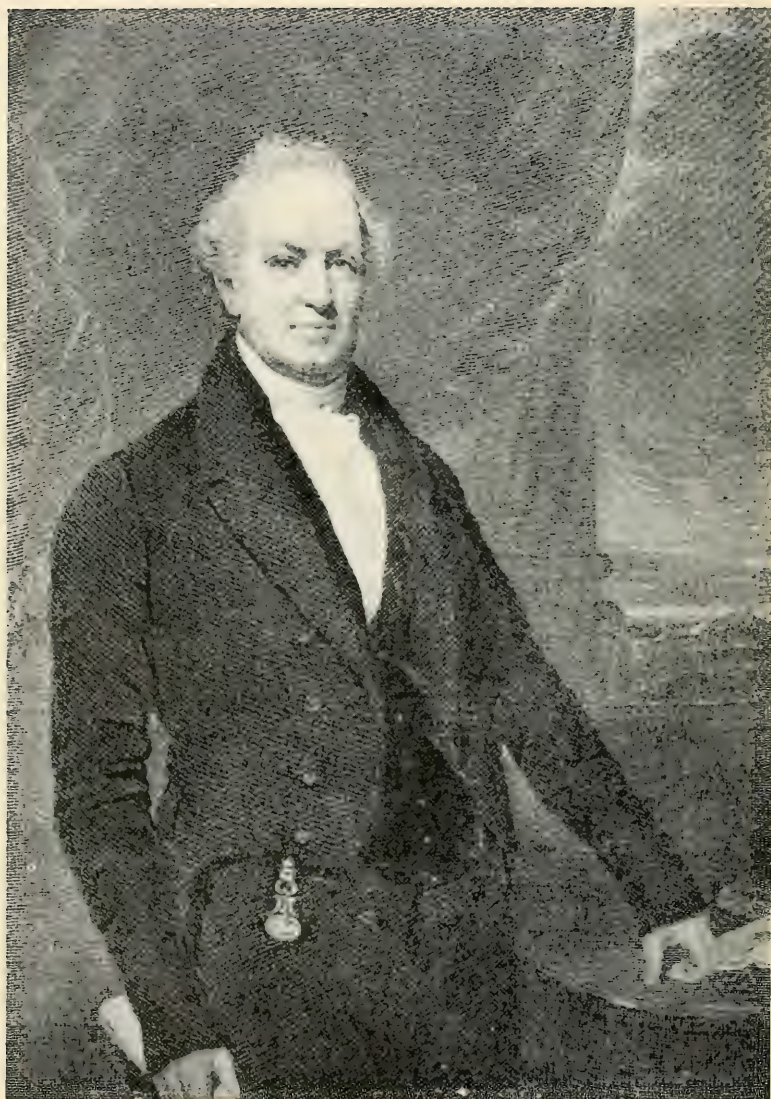


GEORGE C. WOODRUFF (JR.), EDITOR LITCHFIELD ENQUIRER









FREDERICK WOLCOTT

## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE WOLCOTT FAMILY.

In his Memorial Address about the late Governor Roger Wolcott of Massachusetts, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge said of the Wolcott family: "We have one of the rare instances of a family which starting in America with a man of fortune and good estate always retained its position in the community. In the main line at least it never encountered the vicissitudes which attend nearly all families in the course of two hundred and fifty years. The name has never dropped out of sight, but was always borne up by its representative in the same place in society as that held by the founder. More remarkable still, in almost every generation there was at least one of the lineal male descendants of the first immigrant who rose to the very highest positions in military, political and judicial life. The list of Judges, Governors, Generals, Cabinet officers and members of Congress in this pedigree is a long and striking one. From the days of the Somersetshire gentleman to those of the present generation, which has given a Governor to Massachusetts and a brilliant Senator from Colorado to the United States, the Wolcotts, both as soldiers and civilians, have rendered service to their country, as eminent as it has been unbroken. . . . Here is a long roll of honor where the son felt that he would be unworthy of his father if he did not add fresh lustre to the name he bore by service to his state and country either in the hour of trial or in the pleasant paths of peace".

This was the heritage of Oliver Wolcott Sr., when he first came to Litchfield in 1751; just as it has been the heritage of every member of the family before and since. He belonged to the fourth generation of Wolcotts in this country, the original settler, Henry Wolcott, who came over from Somersetshire in 1630, being his great-grand-father. His father was Roger Wolcott, Governor of Connecticut from 1750-54. So far as we can now tell, the attention of Roger Wolcott was first directed towards Litchfield in 1725, when John Marsh and others presented their Memorial to the General Court asking that the non-resident Proprietors of the town be made responsible for their share of its defence and support. Major Roger Wolcott was appointed to the Committee to consider the Memorial and soon after, when non-residents who failed in their duties to the new settlement were to be deprived of their rights in the town, he was appointed chairman of the Committee "to take account of all forfeitures that shall arise by force of this act, and upon the non-payment of the same, to make sale of the lands"

in question. Later he purchased a farm on South Street, including the present Wolcott property and considerable land on the other side of the Street. No account remains of his having been in Litchfield in person, though it would seem very probable that he had been here, either in connection with his appointment of 1725, or to visit his farm, or to visit his son after the latter came to Litchfield in 1751.

Roger Wolcott died May 17, 1767. In his Will, dated July 18, 1761, he left to Oliver "all my land in Litchfield, and all my land in Hartford, and all my land in Colebrook, and all my land in Windsor that lies in the Equivaleut to him & his heirs forever. I also give him my Silver Can".

Oliver Wolcott Sr. began his career as a physician. When it seemed probable that the seat of the new County would be fixed at Goshen, he went there and began practice, but as soon as the County Seat was established at Litchfield he came here. He was chosen Sheriff of the new County, 1751.

The following account of him is given by his friend, James Morris, (p. 108-9): "He was born in Windsor, December 1726. . . . He represented the town in the General Assembly, in the year 1770. In the year 1772, he was chosen a member of the Council. In 1772, he was appointed Judge of Probate, for the district of Litchfield. In the year 1774, he was appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. In the year 1775, he was chosen a Representative in Congress, and was present at the declaration of Independence. He continued a member of the Council till the year 1786, and was then chosen Lieutenant Governor of this State. In this office he continued till the year 1796, and was then chosen Governor; and in this office he died December 1, 1797. The duties of all these stations, he discharged with unshaken integrity and firmness; courted favors from no man, and neither sought, nor obtained, any end by intrigue, or from interested motives. He was singularly modest, and even diffident, in his intercourse with men, in the common walks of life. Those who best knew this gentleman, well knew that the highest trust was never improperly placed in him. Two questions only were asked by him, while discharging the duties of the several offices of high responsibility which he held, viz, What is right? and, What is my duty? He possessed a benevolent heart, and was warm in his friendships; a firm friend to order; a promoter of peace; a lover of religion; and a tried, unshaken friend to the institutions of the Gospel. He was an indefatigable student; and neither wasted his time nor his words. His mind was clear and penetrating; his views of political subjects, just and comprehensive; his discernment of the wisest means to promote the best ends, ready and exact; and his acquaintance with science, particularly with Theology, extensive. He had a remarkable talent at investigations, and nothing satisfied him but proof. He has left a name, which is a sweet savor to his surviving friends".



No mention of Oliver Wolcott Sr. is adequate, which fails to speak of his wife, Lorraine, or Laura, daughter of Capt. Daniel Collins, of Guildford. She was related, though not closely, to Timothy Collins, the first minister in Litchfield. She was a woman of remarkable strength of character and executive ability. Oliver Wolcott's long absences in the discharge of his many varied duties were made possible primarily by her capable handling of the home. She cared for the children, directed the servants and slaves, managed the farm, kept up the hopes of her circle through the most trying days of the Revolution, with an unshaken faith and energy which it is not easy to picture to-day.

There were five children. Oliver, born 1757, who died an infant; Oliver, born January 11, 1760; Laura, born 1761, who married William Mosely of Hartford; Mariann, born 1765, who married Chauncey Goodrich of Hartford, afterwards Lieutenant-Governor of the State; and Frederick, born November 2, 1767.

Oliver Wolcott Jr. left an autobiographical sketch of his boyhood in Litchfield, written when he was over seventy years old, which is so interesting both as a picture of Litchfield from a boy's point of view, and as a picture of the boy who was to become so distinguished, that it is unfortunate that it cannot be included here entire. It will be found in the Wolcott Memorial, pp. 222-227, and should be read by all, especially the account of his trip to New Haven.

"My Mother and Grandmother learned me to speak early; I could read before I was four years old, and was proud of my acquirements. The School House was in the street near the N. W. corner of my Father's Home-Lot, and was about twenty rods from home. The street was nine or ten rods wide, and the hillocks were covered with whortleberry bushes, which were tall enough to hide a young man or boy from observation. It was an excellent place for truants, and used for that purpose by many of the larger Boys of the School. When I had attained the age of six or seven years, I was told that it was time for me to go to School, and was flattered by my Mother that my learning exceeded that of Boys twice my age. I was accordingly dressed in my Sunday habit, and set out, whip in hand, on a Monday morning. I was the smallest and most slender boy who appeared, with a pale face and white hair. The Master was a stout, rough man, and I think it probable that he was a foreigner. When I was called before him, he, judging from appearances, took me between his knees, and with a ferule and Dilworth's Spelling Book in his hand, offered to instruct me in spelling words of several syllables. My astonishment and indignation exceeded all bounds; I considered it as the greatest possible indignity. I had no conception that a Schoolmaster, whom I deemed a great personage, could be so ignorant as not to know that I could read in the Testament. I remained mute, and stifled my proud sobs as well as I was able. The Master supposed that he

had put me too far forward, and turned me back to words of one syllable. My wrath increased, and I continued silent. He tried me in the Alphabet; and as I remained silent, he told me that I came to learn to read, and that I must repeat the words after him, or he would whip me. He actually struck me, supposing me to be obstinately mute; my sobs nearly broke my heart, and I was ordered to my seat. Some of the boys tried to console me, and others laughed. I left the School with the most decided disgust, resolved never to enter it again.

"I evaded going to School as long as possible; and when I did go, I hid myself in the bushes. At length the Master enquired why I had left the School. This brought out my explanation; and such were my horror and antipathy, that my parents judged it proper to excuse me, and I was soon sent to another School, kept by a Miss Patterson, whose mild and conciliating manners attracted my affections. ... At about eleven years of age I went to the Grammar School, which was kept by Nathaniel Brown Beckwith, a graduate of Yale College. ... I was far from being a student. One of the eldest and stoutest Boys was still less so; he and the Master were attached to Fishing and Hunting. Trouts, Partridges, Quail, Squirrels both grey and black, and in the season Pigeons and Ducks, were in great abundance. To these sports all our holidays were devoted, and I engaged in them with great alacrity, in which the Master joined on the footing of an equal. In this course I continued till, in the summer of 1773, Master Beckwith pronounced me fit to enter College. ...

"When I got back to Litchfield", he had made the trip to New Haven and wisely decided not to enter the College for another year, "it took a long time to recount all the wonders I had seen,—the grandeur of New Haven, its numerous Streets, beautiful Trees, Shrubbery and Flowers in the House Yards, the Vessels at the Long Wharf, and the peculiar dress and language of the Mariners. With one of these I had formed an involuntary acquaintance, which cost me a shilling. The wharves of a mud harbor presented no prospect of the Sea; to mend my prospect, I climbed a part of the way up one of the strands, when I felt a Sailor below me, who was tying one of my legs to what I considered a rope ladder. He did it mildly and silently. As I could move neither up nor down, I soon began to lament, which brought my companions to my aid. They desired the Sailor to untie and let me down. He enquired who I was, and why I had climbed his Vessel without his liberty. I assured him that I intended no harm, and was ignorant that I was doing wrong; that I was a boy from the Country, and having seen the sea on coming to New Haven, I was desirous of seeing its shores. The sailor said, that as it was the first time I had been on board a Sea Vessel, and had seen and smelt the Salt Water, I ought to pay what he called *beverage*; that he would require but a Shilling, though if I was a Scholar, he would exact three Shillings. I agreed with joy to his demand, and was instantly let down, amidst

the hearty laughter of his comrades; it seemed no unusual occurrence, so my friends joined in the joke. The Sailor told me that no person ought to pay twice, and that if I found myself tied up again, and called upon him, he would see me liberated without expense. When I had recounted my travelling News to my School Mates, I was advised to resume my Studies, and repeat my travelling Stories out of School hours, which I thought but reasonable. ...

"I had now passed the infantine period, and was between thirteen and fourteen years of age. I was no longer a Child, but a Boy, and hoped soon to be a Man. I found myself useful to my Mother. I could drive Cows to and from Pasture, ride the Cart Horse to Mill, bring in light wood and chips for the kitchen fire, and rock the Cradle, when necessary. ...

"Sunday was to me the most uncomfortable day of the Week, from the confinement in dress and locomotion which it imposed on me. After Prayers and Breakfast, I was taken by my Mother to the Wash Tub, and thoroughly scrubbed with Soap and Water from head to foot. I was then dressed in my Sunday Habit, which, as I was growing fast, was almost constantly too small. My usual dress, at other times, was a thin pair of Trousers, and a Jacket of linsey-woolsey; and I wore no shoes, except in frosty weather. On Sunday morning, I was robed in a Scarlet Cloth Coat with Silver Buttons, a white Silk Vest, white Cotton Stockings, tight Shoes, Ruffles at the Breast of my Jacket, and a cocked Beaver Hat with gold lace Band. In this attire I was marched to the Meeting House, with orders not to soil my Clothes, and to sit still, and by no means to play during meeting-time.

"Parson Champion succeeded Parson Collins, our first Minister, Doctor, and Justice of the Peace. Mr. Champion was a pleasant, affable man, and a sonorous, animated Preacher. I liked loud preaching, and suffered only from the confinement of my Sunday dress. Mr. Champion not unfrequently exchanged Sunday services with a neighboring Parson, whose performances were most uncomfortable. They were dull, monotonous, and very long; in the afternoon they frequently extended to two hours. As I was not allowed to sleep during meeting-time, my sufferings were frequently extreme.

"After service, new toils awaited me. Our Sunday was in fact the old Jewish Sabbath, and continued from sunset to sunset. In the interval, from the end of services in the Meeting House till Sunset, my Father read to the Family from the Bible or some printed Sermon, and when he had done, I was examined by my Mother in the Assembly's Shorter Catechism. When this task was ended, I was allowed to resume my ordinary Habit. It exhilarates my spirit, even at present, to think of the ecstasies I enjoyed when I put on my Jacket and Trousers, and quit my Stockings and Shoes. I used to run to the Garden Lawn or into the orchard; I would leap, run, lie down on the grass, in short, play all the gambols of a fat calf, when loosened from confinement".



After his services in the Revolution, he left Litchfield in 1781 and "proceeded to Hartford, where he accepted a clerkship in the office of the Commissioners of the Pay Table. The following year he was appointed one of the board. In May 1784 he was selected one of the commissioners to adjust the claims of Connecticut against the United States; his colleagues were Oliver Ellsworth and William Samuel Johnson.

"The abolishment of the Commissioners of the Pay Table caused him to be appointed in 1788 Comptroller of Public Accounts; this office he resigned to become Auditor of the United States Treasury. He was afterwards made Comptroller and in the spring of 1791 he declined the presidency of the United States Bank. On the resignation of Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury in 1795, Governor Wolcott succeeded him, holding the office until November 8, 1800. Two years later he removed to New York City, engaged in mercantile pursuits, amassed a fortune, and became the first president of the Bank of North America. After the close of the second war with England, he returned to his native town, where in company with his brother he founded large woolen mills near Torrington. For ten consecutive years he was elected to the gubernatorial chair; on his retirement from this office, he returned to New York City, where he died June 1, 1833. Governor Wolcott was the last survivor of Washington's Cabinet, and the last link in the chain that represented the principles of the founders of the republic". (Connecticut as a Colony and a State, by Forest Morgan, 1904, Vol. III, pp. 108-9).

The late Hon. Joseph Hopkinson, one of his distinguished political associates, thus wrote respecting him:—

"Oliver Wolcott was a man of a cheerful, even playful, disposition. His conversation was interesting and earnest, but gay unless the occasion was unfit for gaiety. He enjoyed a good joke from himself or another, and his laugh was hearty and frequent. He delighted in the discussion of literary subjects, and the works of distinguished authors, and was particularly fond of poetry. . . . His domestic life was most exemplary; his greatest happiness was in his family, with the friends who congregated there. His devotion to the business and duties of his office was severe and unremitting. He possessed, in a high degree, a very rare qualification, the capacity for continued hard work, and was in everything systematic and orderly. His attachments to his friends were strong and lasting, never taxing them with unreasonable exactions. He was open and direct in all his dealings, without duplicity or intrigue in anything; his sincerity was sure, he deceived nobody. His political opinions were the honest convictions of a man of undoubted integrity, of distinguished intelligence and high attainments, and, above all, of a true and sincere lover of his Country". (Wolcott Memorial, p. 307).

His home in Litchfield, during the short periods of his residence there, was always the scene of a large hospitality of which he



was the presiding genius. He lived in the house built in 1799 by Elijah Wadsworth on a part of the Wolcott farm. He enlarged the house considerably in 1817. The house was later that of Col. George B. Sanford, and is now owned by Mrs. Harry G. Day.

We insert here a quotation from a 'Letter of Digestion' of that day, written by Josiah Quincy, Boston, September 30, 1801, after a visit to the house: "Sir; We reached home in four days from Litchfield, and found nothing terrible on the Hartford side of your hills; nothing which the recollection of the attention and pleasure we had received from our visit did not make appear trifling obstacles. It is impossible for Mrs. Quincy and I (sic) not to reckon the time passed at your house as the most delightful part of our excursion, as well as not to dwell upon your promise to give us in the Spring, by a long visit, a chance of returning a few of those many kindnesses which you and Mrs. Wolcott found means to extend in so short a time. . . ."

The fact that Governor Wolcott had been elected on the Democratic or Toleration ticket set him apart a little from some of the most uncompromisingly Federalist families. The second Mrs. Lyman Beecher, on first coming to Litchfield (December 1817) wrote of him: "The Governor resides here. He has honored me with a call. He is a Toleration man. Comes half a day to meeting and no more. . . . We heard the Governor was going to invite us to his house, but at a party where we went, he did not like our management of closing the evening with prayer and singing, and so has given it up".

Oliver Wolcott Jr. married in 1785 Elizabeth, only daughter of Capt. John Stoughton. They had five sons and two daughters, but with the death of the sons, three of them in infancy, and of two grandsons, his male line reached an untimely end.

Mrs. Oliver Wolcott Jr. was a very beautiful and charming woman. When he announced his engagement to his father, the elder Wolcott answered: "Litchfield, January 10, 1785, Sir: Your letter of the fourth instant is received. The Character of the young Lady, whom you mention as the Object of your Affection, justifies your Choice, and receives the Approbation of your Parents. And if you shall wait upon her here, when you shall come to see us, it will increase the pleasure of the Visit. Yours, Oliver Wolcott".

The testimony to her beauty is universal. In the diary of Caroline Chester, a pupil at Miss Pierce's in 1816, (Vanderpoel, p. 153), we read: "Mrs. Wolcott called and very politely asked Mrs. Sheldon to permit me to take tea with her. . . . The party was large. Though Mrs. Wolcott was the only married woman in the room, yet no one would have thought her the oldest for she looked very beautiful".

She "belonged to a class of women of whom Connecticut could then boast many, whose minds were formed, and habits of reflection directed by men; and without coming within the category of female

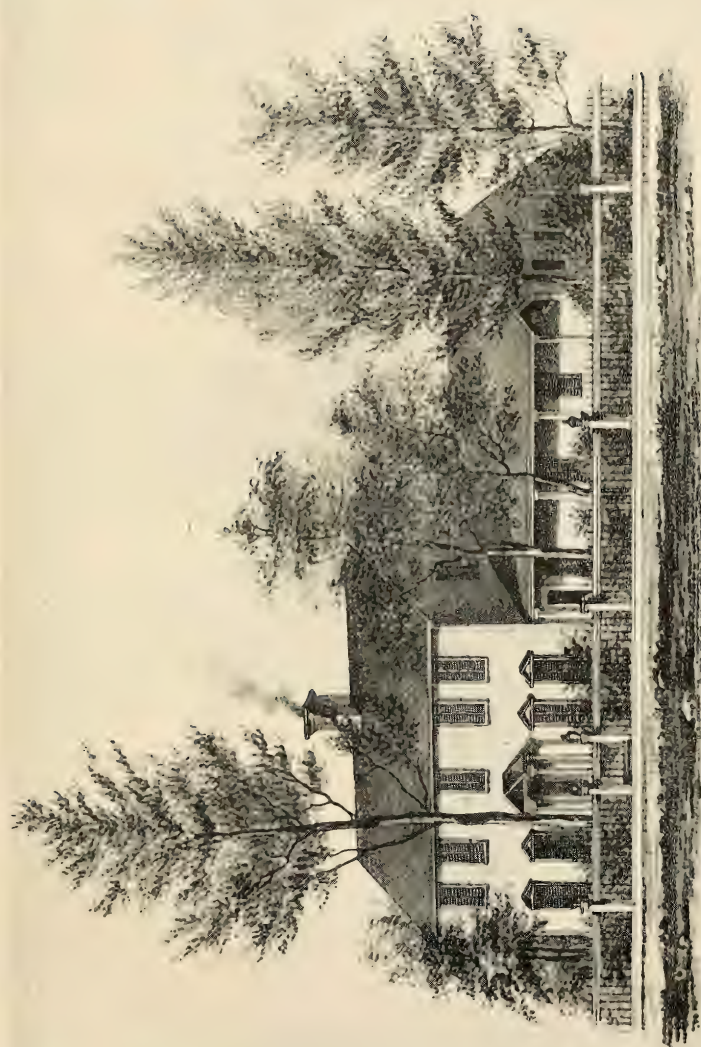
politicians, they had been almost from childhood familiar with questions of public and general interest. An anecdote of Uriah Tracy, whose sarcasms were of old dreaded alike in the Senate Chamber and the drawing-room, has been preserved, commemorative at once of Mrs. Wolcott's attractions and his own peculiar wit. Mr. Liston, the British Minister, who was thoroughly English in his ideas, on some occasion remarked to him: 'Your countrywoman, Mrs. Wolcott, would be admired even at St. James'. 'Sir', retorted the Senator from Connecticut, 'she is admired even on Litchfield Hill!'" (Gibbs, Federal Administration, Vol. I, p. 162).

That Litchfield girls and women are unusually beautiful is a statement the truth of which has been confined to no single generation. We are as proud of it to-day, as ever was Mr. Tracy. It is interesting to trace the growth of the observation of this happy phenomenon. In the diary of a Law student, George Younglove Cutler, August 18, 1820, (Vanderpoel, p. 195), we read: "Evening, Miss Tallmadge here—is certainly elegant—there is no such woman in New Haven—Litchfield is certainly an extraordinary place for beauty—the mountain air gives them the expression of health & that is the principal ingredient".

We think too that perhaps even Lyman Beecher had heard about the ladies of Litchfield, for immediately after arriving here, March 5, 1810, he wrote at once to reassure Mrs. Beecher: "There are many agreeable women here, but none so handsome or pleasing as to occasion a momentary wandering of my heart from the object where it has so long and with such satisfaction rested". (Autobiography, Vol. I. p. 190).

Good, faithful Mr. Beecher; all the newcomers to Litchfield have not been as constant! When James Gould first came to Litchfield, he was present one day at the Court House. Uriah Tracy was in the Court room, and watched the handsome young lawyer with admiration. He asked him to lunch, at his home where possibly his daughter surprised him by monopolizing some of Mr. Gould's attention. We can let Mariann Goodrich tell the rest, just as she wrote it to her favorite brother, Frederick Wolcott, in 1794, (Wolcott Memorial, p. 333): "New Haven folks, especially the women, are most terribly angry at Mr. G. for quitting Miss W. They say he has been engaged to her seven years, and now he writes her a civil letter informing her that he has been so unfortunate as to fall in love with Sally T., and cannot possibly fulfill his promise to her Ladyship—and so wishing her a great deal of happiness he bids her *adieu*. I had several reasons for taking the man's part, which I did with some zeal. I told them it had always been an established practice with the Litchfield Ladies to steal the hearts of all the Gentlemen who came here, and that I thought a New Haven Lady must have a degree of modest assurance to expect to keep her sweet-heart after he had seen the Litchfield beauties!"

The friendship between the charming and very sprightly Mariann Wolcott and her brother Frederick continued as warm after

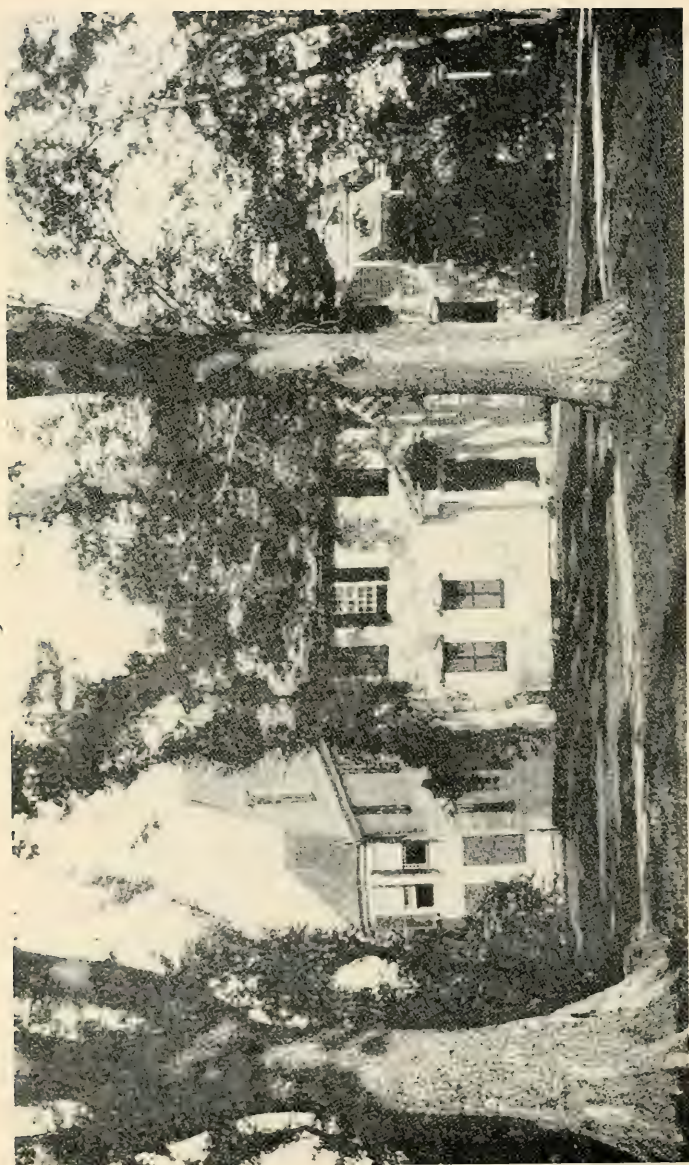


FREDERICK WILSON PLATE 3. 3. 11. STREET









The Wolcott House

she married Chauncey Goodrich, and their letters form one of the most fascinating chapters in the delightful Wolcott Memoirs. They are not adapted for quotation in a history concerned primarily with Litchfield, and we must turn rather to speak of Frederick Wolcott as a citizen. He is described as having been a very retiring and modest man, almost diffident, taking after his father in that respect, but in the discharge of many public duties in Litchfield he was very active. He was for instance our County Clerk for forty three years, surpassing his immediate predecessor, Isaac Baldwin by just one year of service. These two men held the office consecutively from the formation of the County, 1751, until the year before Frederick Wolcott's death, 1836, eighty five years in all. Frederick Wolcott was also Judge of Probate for forty one years. He declined the nomination for Governor of the State on two occasions, when it was tendered him by a convention of his political friends; in both cases their final nominee was elected. Probably no man in the State had a stronger hold on the confidence and regard of his fellow-citizens. He felt that his health was inadequate to the cares and responsibilities of positions more important than the many which he discharged so well. He also loved his home in Litchfield and was loath at any time to leave it and the pleasures of his family life there. He lived in his father's house, which, after having been out of the family for some years, is now owned by his grand-daughter, Miss Alice Wolcott of New York.

Frederick Wolcott was twice married, first in 1800 to Betsey, daughter of Col. Joshua Huntington of Norwich, who died in 1812, and in 1815 to Mrs. Sally Worthington Cooke, daughter of Rev. Samuel Goodrich. He had four daughters and five sons. One of the latter was the donor of the fund which made possible the establishment of the Public Library here.

His four daughters and his second wife were especially known for their many varied charms. Mrs. Wolcott was fitted for Yale College when she was twelve years of age, and cried because she could not enter that institution. In Litchfield, with her daughter and three step-daughters she is said to have "sat as a queen surrounded by her maids of honor".

Of the four Wolcott girls, E. D. Mansfield, wrote, (*Personal Memories*, 1879, pp. 129-130), "One of my temptations to an afternoon walk was to meet the girls, who, like ourselves, were often seen taking their daily walk. Among these, were the Wolcotts, the Demings, the Tallmadges, the Landons, and Miss Peck, who afterwards became my wife. . . . Of the Wolcotts there were four, and I think now, as I did then, that I never beheld more beautiful women than were Hannah and Mary Ann Wolcott. Many a time have I met them on North Street when it was a pleasure to look upon them, with the clearest complexions of white and red, the brightest eyes, with tall and upright forms, and graceful walk. These ladies would have attracted admiration in any place of the world. The two other Wolcotts were also very handsome".

Mary Ann Wolcott, who afterwards was very happily married to Asa Whitehead of New Jersey, must not be confused with her charming Aunt, Mariann Wolcott Goodrich. At this time, 1820, Mary Ann had an unfortunate love affair with Henry W. Livingston, a very wealthy Law student from New York. "I remember", writes George Younglove Cutler, (Vanderpoel, p. 197-8), "when he first went to Litchfield, I was in his room opposite M. A.'s door, we were looking out and saw them—she & the amiable Hannah—L. remarked, 'I suppose these young ladies, i. e. the ladies of this village, depend upon law students for their husbands—I will be very careful they do not ensnare me'—within three weeks he was engaged to M. A. & talked to me of Father W."

The engagement was summarily broken a few weeks later. "It is probably the interference of friends", continued Cutler, "who have caused the mishap in this case—if I was an Emperor I would hang such a man". Though the affair caused a great excitement at the time, Mary Ann Wolcott was undoubtedly fortunate and she took the experience with the spirit characteristic of her family. Six weeks later Cutler could write: "A charming visit at Mary Ann W's—how interesting! how beautiful! how much improved in her personal appearance. I could not help telling her my opinion—In return she reciprocated my compliments—which I always like—she is one of the finest looking females I ever saw".



## CHAPTER XIV.

### SLAVERY.

The question is sometimes asked whether slavery was ever general in Litchfield. We find no evidence that it was. After the Revolution slaves were still employed quite generally in the North, but the majority of families in our town were not in a position to keep slaves, even if they had been inclined to do so. Probably the greatest number of slaves here was during the ten years following the war. In 1800, there were only seven left in the town, and probably the last one was emancipated soon after that date. The sentiment in the North was undergoing a rapid change at this time. Earlier, the keeping of slaves had been a matter of course; but at this date, both law and sentiment were turning with increasing momentum against the custom. George C. Woodruff, in his *Residents of Litchfield*, gives a list of 29 slaves, with their owners' names, and their dates of birth, ranging from 1777 to 1801.

Two Tallmadge receipts for young slaves are preserved. One is a bill of sale from John Shethar for 36 pounds for a negro boy named Prince, seven years old, dated May 19, 1784. The other is a bill of sale from Ezra L'Hommedieu, for a negro girl named Jane, thirteen years old, dated March 10, 1787.

In the Wolcott household, the slaves, and later the free colored servants were apparently numerous. There is an interesting letter from Oliver Wolcott Jr., to his mother, written from New York two months after the marriage of his sister Mariann: "I can easily judge", he says in part, "from my own feelings, that your own situation, since the removal of my Sister, must be in some respects lonely and disagreeable. But as you will be able to hear frequently from her, and must be perfectly satisfied with the character of Mr. Goodrich, I feel not so much anxiety on that account, as from the multiplied attention which you will give to the family servants, with which you are burdened. I must request that your humanity to them be not so particular as to suffer your health to be impaired on their account. If any measures consistent with propriety can be taken, to prevent an increase of that kind of trouble, it is surely your duty to attempt them". (Wolcott Memorial, p. 237, Letter of December 21, 1789).

It would appear from this letter that the Litchfield slaves were very kindly looked after. This is confirmed by the lack of notices in the press of run-away slaves. Only one of these is established: In the *Witness* for October 23, 1805, John Bird of South Farms

advertised a \$20. reward: "Ran away on the 21st instant about midnight, a man slave, by name Tom, who has long lived with my father, Doct. Bird". This advertisement was continued weekly for upwards of three months, so that Tom probably was not found.

In the Monitor of June 7, 1797, David Welch of Milton advertised for the return of "a mulatto servant Jep 21 years old, about five feet 7 or 8 inches high, understands the trade of a Bloomer, will probably seek employment in that business". But this was not necessarily a slave.

The consideration of the Litchfield slave owners in liberating their slaves when they considered them able to look out for themselves is shown in the following document of the elder Oliver Wolcott, notable also for its early date:

"Know all men by these Presents that I Oliver Wolcott of Litchfield in the State of Connecticut in expectation that my negro Servant Man Caesar will by his industry be able to obtain a comfortable subsistence for Himself and that he will make a proper use of the Freedom which I hereby give him Do Discharge liberate and set free him the said Caesar and do hereby exempt him from any further Obligation of servitude to me my heirs and from every other person claiming Authority over him by from or under me—and that my said servant whom I now make free as aforesaid may be known hereafter by a proper Cognomen I hereby give him the name of Jamus so that hereafter he is to be known and distinguished by the name of Caesar Jamus. As Witness my Hand and Seal in Litchfield November 23, A. D. 1786".

As the slaves were freed they became in many cases useful and desirable members of our community. At least three figure on the Honor Roll of the Revolution. These are Cash Africa, George Negro, and Jack Negro. The name of the first of these is so unusual that we would gladly know more of him. After the War, May 19, 1788, we find a contract between him and Col. Tallmadge for services. One Jeph Africa lies in the East Cemetery, and the stone is still legible: "Here lies the body of Jeph Africa, servant of the Rev. Judah Champion, who died June the 5th, 1793". This stone appears to have caught the eye of Nathaniel Hawthorne when he visited Litchfield in 1838, though if it be the same one he misread it; the page he devotes to Litchfield is so interesting as giving his impressions that it is here quoted at length, though concerned with matters not immediately pertinent to the story of Africa: (Am. Notebooks, Wayside Edition, p. 201).

"In Connecticut, and also sometimes in Berkshire, the villages are situated on the most elevated ground that can be found, so that they are visible for miles around. Litchfield is a remarkable instance, occupying a high plain, without the least shelter from the winds, and with almost as wide an expanse of view as from a mountain-top. The streets are very wide, two or three hundred feet, at least, with wide, green margins, and sometimes there is a wide

green space between the two road tracks. Nothing can be neater than the churches and houses. The graveyard is on the slope, and at the foot of a swell, filled with old and new gravestones, some of red freestone, some of grey granite, most of them of white marble, and one of cast-iron with an inscription of raised letters. There was one of the date of about 1776, on which was represented the third-length, bas-relief portrait of a gentleman in a wig and other costume of that day; and as a framework about this portrait was wreathed a garland of vine-leaves and heavy clusters of grapes. The deceased should have been a jolly bottleman; but the epitaph indicated nothing of the kind.

"In a remote part of the graveyard, remote from the main body of dead people, I noticed a humble, mossy stone, on which I traced out 'To the memory of Julia Africa, servant of Rev.' somebody. There were also the half obliterated traces of other graves, without any monuments, in the vicinity of this one. Doubtless the slaves here mingled their dark clay with the earth.

"At Litchfield there is a Doctor who undertakes to cure deformed people—and humpbacked, lame, and otherwise defective folk go there. Besides these, there were many ladies and others boarding there, for the benefit of the air, I suppose". While on this digression, it should be added that the hospital for cripples here referred to was at the present Mrs. W. H. Sanford house. It was established in 1832 by Dr. Alanson Abbe.

Of the Africa family we know nothing further. In the Woodruff list we find a slave, Cash, belonging to Col. Ebenezer Marsh. It may be that he accompanied Col. Marsh to the War, and so gained his position on the Honor Roll. Col. Marsh had another slave, Nim, the first colored man in town, reputed to have killed three deer at one shot.

Evidence of Litchfield's reputation for generous treatment of slaves, if any were needed, is furnished by the story of Old Grimes, here abbreviated from Kilbourn's Bench and Bar, pp. 329-330:

William Grimes was a run-away slave who came to Litchfield about 1808, and became a general servant to the students at the Law School. Judge Reeve had acquired a reputation for defending fugitive slaves, and several came here simply from hearing about him. Grimes was thrifty and bought a piece of land west of the Fire Department building, to which he moved a small building which he used as a barber shop. His former master found him out some fifteen years later and attempted to recover him. He was obliged to dispose of his property through his friends, Dr. Abel Catlin and William H. Thompson, who used the proceeds to purchase his freedom. He left Litchfield and removed to New Haven, where he continued to serve the students at Yale College. He published a sketch of his life, and always seemed to enjoy his own picturesqueness. When Albert G. Green, of Rhode Island, afterwards United States Senator, was a student in Litchfield, he had the reputation

of being a great rhymester. Old Grimes hearing of this importuned him to write a poem about him, which he did, and which became famous as an epitaph written before the fact. Kilbourn gives nine stanzas and there were perhaps more; here are four of them:

✓ Old Grimes is dead—that good old man,  
We ne'er shall see him more;  
He used to wear a long black coat  
All buttoned down before.

He lived in peace with all mankind,  
In friendship he was true;  
His coat had pocket-holes behind,  
His pantaloons were blue.

But good old Grimes is now at rest,  
Nor fears misfortune's frown;  
He wore a double-breasted vest,  
The stripes ran up and down.

His neighbors he did not abuse,  
Was sociable and gay;  
He wore large buckles on his shoes,  
And changed them every day.

The last survivor of the freed slaves around Litchfield was probably Tom Jackson, a former slave of Col. Tallmadge, who lived with his wife and a daughter on the Milton Road. He died there some time after 1857.

Another class of servants, both white and colored, were known as Indented Servants. These were persons who sold their services for a definite period of time in return for a cash contract or some other equivalent. We find many of these old contracts. "Indenture for Mistic boy, named Ebo, from his mother to Benj. Tallmadge, April 7, 1785"; and again "Indenture between Benjamin Tallmadge and Ruth Woodhull for services, November 25, 1788". More often young boys were indentured as apprentices, pledging a certain period of service, in return for the teaching of a trade. Occasionally, men or boys who wished to come over to this country, sold themselves to the ship captains for their passage across the Atlantic. They were called Redemptioners. On arrival their pledged service in the form of an indenture would be resold by the captain at auction or private sale. Col. Matthew Lyon, who figured in public life as Congressman from Vermont and Kentucky, was an Irish boy who came over in this manner. He was sold for a pair of stags, valued at 12 pounds, to Hugh Hannah of Litchfield, and he stayed here for ten years before going to Vermont. He died August 1, 1822.

Many apprentices ran away, and the columns of our early papers often contained advertisements for their return. They were probably troublesome enough to their masters, and the small amounts



of the rewards offered may indicate that the masters were not especially keen for their return, the advertisements being put in merely out of duty to the parents who had indentured them. The smallest reward noticed is for a girl: "Ran away from the subscriber on the 6th instant, an indentured girl, 12 years old, by the name of Sarah Moss. She has blue eyes, light hair, and is hard of hearing. . . . Whoever will return said Girl to the Subscriber shall have twenty cents reward and no charges paid. All persons are forbidden harboring said girl on penalty of the Law. Reuben Webster. Litchfield, Aug. 9, 1805". (Witness).

Indentured servants could be sold, like slaves, for the unexpired terms of their contracts. We close this account of the servant problems of 120 years ago with a sample advertisement for a sale of this character:

"For Sale. Eight Years and Six Months Service of an indentured Mulatto Girl, at the expiration of which period she will be 21 years and 6 months old. She is of middling size, strong and healthy, and has been brought up to housework. Her present owner not having sufficient employ for her, she will be sold on easy terms at the moderate price of 34 pounds, payable by instalments, in sheep or young cattle, for two thirds, the residue in cash. Inquire of the Printer". (Monitor, October 18, 1797).

## CHAPTER XV.

### THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

On May 9, 1789, a Temperance Association was formed in Litchfield in an endeavor, as the pledge signed on that occasion states, "to reform a practice which leads so many to poverty, distress and ruin". Such an Association would be of interest to us in any event owing to the very early date at which it was formed; but it gains added significance because it can be considered as preparing the soil in which Lyman Beecher, thirty seven years later, initiated his far more famous crusade against intemperance. It is perhaps well to say a little more about this pioneer movement than would be necessary had it led no further.

In those early days drinking was considered an absolute necessity if only to counteract the rigorous climate of our hill country. Thus, for example, the very year of the Temperance Association, Oliver Wolcott Sr. writes from Litchfield in a letter of advice to his son, Oliver Jr., when the latter first went to New York as Auditor of the National Treasury, (Wolcott Memorial, pp. 185-6): "November 24, 1789, Sir; ... Your Service will be complicated and arduous ... You may therefore safely indulge yourself with as much Exercise and Relaxation, as will be necessary for your Health. Endeavor to preserve the *mens sana in sano corpore*, by indulging at times a certain Vacancy of Thought, etc. As to your Mode of Living, I need say but very little; your Habits of Temperance will render it unnecessary, only this you will recollect, that there are many old Men in Connecticut, who have drank Cider for three quarters of a Century, who are active and almost blooming, and exempt from all Gout, Rheumatism, and Stone; while the drinkers of beer and Spirits die soon, and in misery. Simple Diet and fermented Liquors, except rich Beer, will with the moderate use of water, be always found to be best, especially for sedentary persons".

It was not thought possible for the average workman to keep his health without a very considerable amount of rum or cider to restore the vitality consumed in his physical work; the non-laboring class also assumed that it could not live through a Litchfield winter without a large consumption of stimulants. It was a matter of much concern some years when the apple crop had been small, and when orchards at best were limited, how the necessary supply of cider was to be obtained. Among the letters of Oliver Wolcott Jr. to his brother, Frederick Wolcott, in the Litchfield Historical

Society, is one from Washington specially urging him to get an adequate supply from Harwinton while it was still possible to buy cider there.

Even at the raising of the Meeting Houses no work could be done without a liberal distribution of rum. The classical instance of this occurs in connection with the raising of the second Church by the South Farms Society in 1785. In April of that year, the Society voted, "that the meeting house committee shall have good right to furnish Rum, Grindstones, and Ropes sufficient for framing the meeting house according to their best discretion". And in June of the same year, the Society appointed an Overseer, to direct the issue of liquor at the raising, and voted, "that the overseer shall give two drams per day to the spectators, one a little before noon, the other a little before night". They entered upon the work with such spirit, that the Meeting House was finished in twenty weeks after they began the frame. This distribution was a regular part of all community movements. The first attempt to do away with it was in connection with the raising in 1829 of the third Congregational Church, three years after Lyman Beecher had preached his Temperance Sermons, and it was not a success. "A hogshead of small beer had been brewed in the cellar of Galpin and Goodwin's store, across the street, an innovation which did not meet with popular approval. There was a crowd of people around the church cellar, but not enough hands could be found who would lift even the ground timbers into place. When the strike was seen to be thoroughly 'on' Dr. William Buel asked William Norton and some other boys to go to his store and bring over a certain box, which the lads found to be very heavy. When the doctor opened it and the company saw a case of liquors, there were plenty of men ready to handle the largest timbers! The last day when the spire was raised there were two or three Shaker tubs of rum punch set at the east end of East Park with little tin cups near by...". (Miss Esther H. Thompson in *Waterbury American*, March 8, 1906).

The Association of 1789 was naturally the subject of a good deal of banter. An echo of this appears in one of the sprightly letters of Mrs. Chauncey Goodrich (Mariann Wolcott) to her brother Frederick Wolcott (Hartford, August 13, 1793): "I hope you will attend to Papa's health and encourage him in moderate exercise and to live generously. It is supposed that Mr. Sherman and Gen. Wolcott brought on their disorders by too great temperance in living. I hope our Father will be a comfort to himself and a blessing to us for a long time. My duty and Love to him and to my Mother". (Wolcott Memorial, p. 331).

But there was another side to the picture, in the men, some of them, as it happened, very prominent ones, who fell victims to intemperance; and unquestionably it was these examples that led to the inception and growth of the temperance movement. The most signal case was that of Jedediah Strong.

The picture of Judge Strong drawn for us by Kilbourne (pp. 147-150) is not an attractive one, but his story at least deserves pity. He was born in Litchfield in 1738, and spent his whole life here; he graduated at Yale in 1761, and was the second native of Litchfield to receive a collegiate degree. He first studied divinity, but, being early elected to a town office, he abandoned his studies for the more congenial pursuits of a politician. With only his own skill to help him, he soon acquired and long maintained a political ascendancy second only to that of Wolcott and Adams. An imperious will, an affectation of power and a faculty of making himself popular all contributed to his success. His diminutive figure, limping gait, and unpleasant countenance were in some measure atoned for by his promptness and tact in the discharge of the public business. He was a good penman, then an important qualification, familiar with legal forms, and held possibly as many public offices for as long terms as any of our citizens. Many of these will be found in the Appendix. His habit of intoxication gradually grew on him and led him to poverty and degradation. He is said at one time to have been a beggar and a charge on the Town. He was twice married, his daughter, Idea Strong, remaining to the last his chief comfort. He died in 1802, and was buried in the West Burying Ground, but no trace of his grave remains.

Already in 1789 his habit of intemperance was proverbial, and it is possible that the Association was formed in part at least to try to give him the support of his fellow townsmen in an attempt to reform himself. It is at least noticeable that while the other signers put all their names together at the foot of their pronouncement, Judge Strong signed a separate statement after them. The original pledge is given at length in Woodruff's History, p. 50. Among the signers were Ephraim Kirby, Julius Deming, Benjamin Tallmadge, Uriah Tracy, Ebenezer Marsh, Moses Seymour, Daniel Sheldon, Tapping Reeve, Frederick Wolcott, Lynde Lord, and John Allen.

The separate pledge of Judge Strong was as follows: "By Necessity and on Principle, in consequence of little experiment and much observation, I have effectually adopted and adhered to the salutary plan herein proposed during several months past, and am still resolved to persevere until convinced that any alteration will be productive of some greater good, whereof at present I have no apprehension whilst Human Nature remains the same".

His good resolves were of short duration. In 1790 he was arrested for ill treatment on the charge of his second wife, Susannah, daughter of George Wyllys, then Secretary of State at Hartford. He was afterwards sued by her for a divorce, which she obtained, the trial being held in New Haven. In spite of all his misfortunes, he remained something of a character to the end, and we may perhaps quote from his Will, dated March 31, 1801, as it is one of the most unconventional ever filed in this Probate District. It is mainly occupied with pious reflections and counsels addressed to his



daughter. "And finally", he adds, "that worldly wealth or earthly estate which it has pleased the Universal Proprietor to commit to my temporary care and stewardship on the sublunary, probationary theatre, (or the remnant fragments after so much spoliation of envy, Covetousness, Oppression, or whatever mistake in extreme career of permitted human vicissitude), my most mature and deliberate option and volition is, that disposition be made as follows: I recommend, give and bequeath, to my beloved daughter, Idea Strong, my Bibles and inferior Orthodox Treatises on Religion and Morality, or relative or appertaining to Vital Piety or Practical Godliness, and all other Books, Pamphlets or Manuscripts, except Romances, if any be left extant, which I have long since, (though not soon enough), intentionally consigned or destined to deserved oblivion in native shades of chaos". The amount of his worldly wealth, says Kilbourne, as per inventory, was \$96.66; while as an offset to this, claims against him to the amount of a few hundred dollars were sent in.

No good purpose can be served by detailing the circumstances of all those who were in the minds of the men who kept alive the temperance movement between the original pledge of 1789 and the Beecher Sermons of 1826. Reference should however be made to another very distinguished lawyer, John Allen, a signer of the pledge of 1789, who in his last years yielded to intemperate habits, and lost his business and wealth, dying at the farmhouse north of Town to which he retired.

He was a striking figure, in many respects the very antithesis of Judge Strong. David S. Boardman, in his *Sketches of the Early Lights of the Litchfield Bar, 1860*, describes him as follows: "He was six feet four or five inches high, very erect and with an attitude and walk well calculated to set off his full stature, and though quite lean, weighed full 230 pounds. His countenance was strongly marked and truly formidable, his eyes and eyebrows dark, his hair dark, what little he had, and indeed his whole appearance was calculated to inspire dread rather than affection. His manner and conversation were, however, such as to inspire confidence and respect, though little calculated to invite familiarity, except with his intimates, of whom he had few, and those, knowing the generous and hearty friendship of which he was capable, were usually much attached to him and ready to overlook all his harsh sallies, imputing them to the 'rough humor which his mother gave him'. His feelings were not refined, but ardent, generous and hearty. His friendships were strong and his aversions equally so; and his feelings were all of the great sort". He was born in Great Barrington, Mass., in 1762. After teaching school in Germantown, Penna., and in New Milford, he came to the Law School in Litchfield, and remained here for the rest of his life. He attained a high eminence, but was content to confine his practice almost entirely to Litchfield County, though he

practiced in other parts of the State in special cases of importance to which he was called.

It would appear that his case influenced Lyman Beecher to a consideration of the temperance question, just as that of Jedediah Strong influenced the men who formed the Association of 1789. Another influence on Beecher was furnished by the conditions he found within the church itself, especially in connection with what was then considered a necessary form of hospitality at such gatherings as the Ordination of new ministers. Here is the description he has left us of the first ordination he attended after coming to Litchfield, that of Mr. Hart in Plymouth, (*Autobiography*, I, pp. 245-6):

"At the ordination at Plymouth, the preparation for our creature comforts, in the sitting-room of Mr. Hart's house, besides food, was a broad sideboard, covered with decanters and bottles, and sugar, and pitchers of water. There we found all the various kinds of liquors then in vogue. The drinking was apparently universal. This preparation was made by the Society as a matter of course. When the Consociation arrived, they always took something to drink round; also before public services, and always on their return. As they could not all drink at once, they were obliged to stand and wait as people do when they go to mill. There was a decanter of spirits on the dinner table, to help digestion, and gentlemen partook of it through the afternoon and evening as they felt the need, some more and some less; and the sideboard, with the spillings of water, and sugar, and liquor, looked and smelled like the bar of a very active grog-shop. None of the Consociation were drunk; but that there was not, at times, a considerable amount of exhilaration, I cannot affirm. When they had all done drinking, and had taken pipes and tobacco, in less than fifteen minutes there was such a smoke you couldn't see. And the noise I cannot describe; it was the maximum of hilarity".

A temperate man himself, Lyman Beecher had never been an advocate of total abstinence. "Two leading members of his own church", says Miss Esther H. Thompson, *Waterbury American*, February 22, 1906, "Capt. Wadsworth and Deacon Bradley, kept a tavern and a grocery store in Bantam, where fermented and distilled liquors flowed freely as was then the universal custom in such places. Unseemly carousals were common, in one of which there was a battle wherein salted codfish figured as weapon, adding thereby no dignity to the church, and deeply grieving the wife of Capt. Wadsworth, who was the sister of Deacon Bradley. She was a woman of superior intellect, deep piety, and early became a believer in total abstinence. It is said that her influence was potent in arousing Dr. Beecher to see and to preach against the evil of intemperance. But he was especially led to sentiments so much in advance of the age by the scruples of his friend and parishioner, Hezekiah Murray, from the Pitch. This man owned a Still. Noticing the evil effects of its product on the young men

of the neighborhood, he forbid his own sons to drink from it. Then he questioned, 'if distilled liquor was bad for his children, was it right to put it before the sons of his neighbors?' and he came to Dr. Beecher for advice. At first the minister, in accordance with the almost universal opinion of the time, argued strongly in favor of moderate drinking. But the subject was before him and 'would not down'. After weeks of careful thought and study, there thundered from the pulpit the memorable Six Sermons on Intemperance, which we are told were afterwards extensively circulated on both sides of the Atlantic, and started a movement which has never stopped".

No man in the country was more earnest or fearless in his attacks on anything which he had definitely decided for himself to be an abuse. He had previously, in 1806, while at East Hampton, after the Burr-Hamilton duel, led the attack against the then universal custom of dueling. This reform, strange as it may seem to us to-day, was considered a more radical departure than his later crusade in behalf of temperance, but that story is not a part of the History of Litchfield.

Of the Six Sermons themselves, we need speak only in Dr. Beecher's own words; "I didn't set up for a reformer any more than this: when I saw a rattlesnake in my path, I would smite it", and elsewhere, (*Autobiography*, II., p. 35): "I wrote under such power of feeling as never before or since. Never could have written them under other circumstances. They took hold of the whole congregation. Sabbath after Sabbath the interest grew and became the most absorbing thing ever heard of before. A wonder: of weekly conversation and interest, and, when I got through, of eulogy. All the old farmers that brought in wood to sell, and used to set up their cart-whips at the groggery, talked about it, and said, many of them, that they would never drink again".

With the Six Sermons and the departure of Lyman Beecher the same year for the wider field of his activities in Boston, the question of temperance passes out of the History of Litchfield.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### FEDERALISTS AND DEMOCRATS.

In Litchfield, as in every other community, party spirit has from time to time run high, in connection with local, state and national elections. In general, no special interest attaches to these incidents once the questions which have been at issue are settled. Only in one instance has the storm of party feeling in Litchfield had an effect outside the borders of the township. This was the bitter fight between the Federalists and the Democrats, which first reached high water mark in 1806, in the imprisonment at Litchfield of the Democratic editor of the Witness, Selleck Osborn; which had its effect upon the establishment in 1814 of the Phoenix Bank in Hartford, with its branch in Litchfield, now our First National Bank; and which culminated with the election in 1817 of Oliver Wolcott Jr. as the first Democratic Governor of Connecticut and the ratification of a new Constitution for the State in the following year.

The election of Jefferson as President in 1801 had started the tide of party feeling running higher throughout the country than at any time since the Revolution. Perhaps this feeling was less marked in Connecticut than elsewhere; for in this State the government was solidly Federalist, and while every act of the new party was met with condemnation, the Democrats were treated more with disdain than opposition. The Democrats were however a rising force everywhere, and they had no intention of neglecting Connecticut. They were well organized, they had complete faith in Jefferson and in themselves, and where they thought it advisable they were absolutely careless of the methods they used to arouse feeling and to win votes. At this day it seems as if much of the feeling was due as largely to the methods they used as to the actual principles involved.

One of the dominant strongholds of Federalism, in this strongly Federalist State was Litchfield. Moses Seymour was at first the only citizen of prominence who was a Democrat, though many of the younger men and very many of the workers in the mills were Democrats. Practically all the men of the families of wealth were Federalists. The Congregational church was also strongly Federalist. Originally the so-called religion tax, which was a part of the regular tax, was applied exclusively to the benefit of the Congregational church throughout the State. In many parts of the State, as in Litchfield there was no other church. Since 1729 other sects could pay their religion tax for the support of their own ministers instead



of all having to pay for the Congregational preacher, and later each denomination was allowed to pay its tax in its own way and at separate rates. "In effect, the Congregational was the 'established church' of Connecticut. There were the outward symbols too, as witness the election-day services for generations in the First Church, Hartford, when all the Congregational clergy in the state marched in the procession with state officers and soldiery; and there never was an election sermon by aught except a Congregationalist till that by Dr. Doane the year of the new constitution, 1818". (First Century of the Phoenix Bank, pp. 14-15).

It is not to be wondered at then that politics got into the pulpit. Years before, when Jefferson was elected as the Vice-President with John Adams, Judah Champion prayed for "Thy servant, the President of the United States", and then added fervently, "Oh! Lord, wilt Thou bestow on the Vice-President a double portion of Thy grace, *for Thou knowest he needs it*".

The Episcopal Church, corresponding with the Church of England was generally considered as being a Tory body, and to carry on the distinction, it was usually identified with the Democratic party. The distinction between the two churches was of course not a true one, however convenient politically, for in the Revolution there were happily patriots in every church, and later the Democrats were found in increasing numbers in every church. The best Americans were too sensible to share in these distinctions. "The church of St. Michael in Litchfield, was a mark (in the Revolution) for the maliciously disposed; and its windows stood as shattered monuments of the vengeance of adversaries. When General Washington passed through Litchfield the soldiers to evince their attachment to him threw a shower of stones at the windows; he reproved them, saying: 'I am a *Churchman*, and wish not to see the church dishonored and desolated in this manner'." (Mrs. Anna Dickinson, in Saint Michael's Centennial Pamphlet, Nov. 5, 1845, Appendix).

When, after Jefferson's election to the Presidency, the Democrats determined on the systematic invasion of Connecticut, they staged a series of political rallies, which they called Festivals. Of these Tapping Reeve wrote, (The Litchfield Festival, 1806): "It has been fashionable ever since the organization of the Democratic party, for their leaders to appoint public meetings and festivals, which all are invited to attend, and on which great numbers constantly do attend. Thus in March, 1801, a festival in honor of the election of Mr. Jefferson as President, and Mr. Burr as Vice-President, was holden at Wallingford; in 1802 a like festival was holden also at Wallingford; in 1803 at New Haven; in 1804 at Hartford to celebrate the purchase of Louisiana; in 1806 at Litchfield to celebrate the independence of the United States; and in 1804 a great number, denominated the representatives, from 97 towns were convened at New Haven by order of the then State Manager to devise means for forming a new Constitution for this State".

The festival in Litchfield was elaborately staged. Timothy Ashley, an editor, was sent to Litchfield, where he started a newspaper, the *Witness*, on August 14, 1805. He was evidently not considered sensational enough, for presently another editor was sent, Selleck Osborn. Together, the two men made a tremendous stir. Apparently Ashley did the work in the office on South Street, while Osborn furnished the sensations. He started in with a rush that would have done justice to the most radical or sensational paper ever published since, evidently trying to draw out the Federalists to some action which would lay them open to criticism. The more prominent citizens always appeared under nick-names: Col. Benjamin Tallmadge figured as 'Billy Bobtail', Judge Gould as 'Jimmy Dross'; and Julius Deming as the 'Crowbar Justice', so called on account of a supposedly rigid insistence on justice in the matter of the price of a crowbar bought from a political opponent as they came out of a tempestuous town-meeting. (Miss Thompson in *Waterbury American*, March 1906). The nicknames given to some other residents of the town and printed weekly in the *Witness* were such as could not appear in print to-day. Osborn began to achieve results promptly, as might have been expected. Going into the Tallmadge store one day and beginning to criticise everything in sight, one of Col. Tallmadge's sons caught up a horse-whip and sailed into him with a will. This was a great success for Osborn, and the *Witness* made the most of it. But more was needed. Eventually the chance came. Julius Deming lost his temper completely and brought a libel suit against both editors. The result was inevitable. Judgment was brought against both men and they were subjected to a fine. In default of payment they were committed to the County Jail. Ashley was not so ready to play the martyr as Osborn, and was soon liberated. "I prefer the imprisonment of the body to that of the mind", contemptuously replied Osborn, when the opportunity to regain his freedom was offered him. The Democrats now took up the cudgels for Osborn, and he was proclaimed a political martyr. The news of his incarceration reached other States, and Democrats elsewhere expressed their sympathy and gave their support to the effort to make political capital out of the incident. It was announced that Osborn's health was suffering from confinement in a damp and loathsome cell, and this was printed in the columns of Democratic journals published far from Litchfield. The Democrats appointed a committee to visit the Jail, to learn the true situation. Just what secrets of the Jail the Sheriff revealed, or whether there were any to be revealed, will never be known; but the committee reported that Osborn was confined in the same room with two criminals, charged with capital offences; they reported that the walls were ragged stone work, and the air damp; they asserted that his health was failing. From this time forward the committee made regular visits to the Jail and issued weekly Bulletins through the *Witness*. In vain the Sheriff, John R. Landon, denied the truth of the reports; the story

of Osborn's persecution went abroad throughout the land. It was decided to have a demonstration in his honor on August 6, 1806, and this was worked up into the Festival already mentioned. It was a great day for the Democrats in the history of Litchfield. After early salutes by guns and music, there was a parade of troops and civilians. In the procession were United States Cavalry, Militia from Massachusetts, distinguished public officials so far as they proved available. Osborn had the opportunity to enjoy the demonstration in his own behalf. The procession marched past the Jail, which occupied the site of the present School-house, with bared heads. Opposite his window a salute was fired.

Notwithstanding the hatred with which many of the Congregationalists regarded Democracy, the Society had generously offered the use of the meeting house for the occasion. Here occurred an unfortunate incident. The Rev. Judah Champion and his colleague, Dan Huntington, had taken their places to hear the exercises, when the chairman of the day, Joseph L. Smith, (son-in-law of Ephraim Kirby and Ruth Marvin, and himself afterwards the father of the celebrated Southern General Kirby Smith), rudely came up to the two ministers and is said to have insulted them and forced them to leave the building.

After the spread-eagle exercises in the meeting house, the company adjourned to the green opposite the Jail, where a collation was served. Here Selleck Osborn had the privilege of looking from his window and hungrily enjoying the feast spread in his honor, but out of his reach. Seventeen toasts were drunk during the afternoon to the accompaniment of martial music and cannon shot. The first of these was "Selleck Osborn! the Later Daniel in the lions' den. He is teaching his persecutors that the beasts cannot devour him!"

With the Festival, the work of the Witness had been achieved. The Democrats had won the notoriety they desired, not to speak of the votes. The paper was continued for a few months to reap the benefits of the advertising. Then it was discontinued, Selleck Osborn's fine was paid, and he left for other fields of endeavor.

The bitterness remained. As a single example we quote from Boardman's Sketches of the Litchfield Bar, the laconic answer of John Allen to an inquiry of him, why he took the Aurora, the County democratic paper: "He replied it was because he wanted to know what they were about in the infernal regions".

Litchfield again figured in the political situation in 1814, when the charter of the Phoenix Bank was being sought in Hartford. This was opposed by the Hartford Bank, then the only one in the city, which naturally feared the competition. The cry that the Phoenix Bank was to be a Democratic and an Episcopal institution was raised, and it was found that the support of the Litchfield representatives and business men would help materially in laying apprehension, as their conservatism was known. In return, Litch-



field asked for and obtained a branch bank, with privileges of deposit as well as of discount, then unusual privileges for a branch. The charter was obtained and Col. Benjamin Tallmadge became the first President of the Litchfield Branch. In 1865 the First National Bank was organized as the successor of the branch bank, with Edwin McNeill as the first President. The Phoenix Bank of Hartford and the Litchfield Bank now rank sixth in order of length of continuous operation in the State.

The granting of the charter was called the Toleration Act by the Episcopalians. If the name of their church had before been made an argument against the granting of the charter, they argued that when the charter was granted their party deserved the credit. Hitherto, every attempt of an Episcopalian to attain office had been opposed. So much was this the case in the years following the Revolution that the Rev. James Nichols, the Episcopal clergyman, "presented an address to the General Assembly asking for the appointment of a prominent churchman, Daniel Landon, as Justice of the Peace, 'wishing', as the petition reads, 'the favor of a justice of the peace to adorn the Society'." (Rev. Storrs O. Seymour, in *Clergy of Litchfield County*, 1909, p. 127).

The cry of Toleration really turned Connecticut into a Democratic State. It made an appeal to many conservative men, who had only been disgusted by such demonstrations as that of Selleck Osborn. When Oliver Wolcott Jr., after his return to Litchfield, was asked to become the Democratic candidate for Governor in 1817, his surprise was considerable. His family were all Federalists, he himself had been a member of the Cabinet of both the Federalist Presidents; his house had been the meeting ground for the Federalists in Philadelphia and in Washington, especially of course for those from New England, and this at a time when the division of political parties at the seat of government in their social intercourse was more decided than it has ever been since.

Oliver Wolcott would never have run on a Democratic platform of the 1806 brand, but Toleration brought in issues with which he and many others were in hearty sympathy. These he outlined in his inaugural address to the General Assembly, May 1817. This address found its way to the *London Times*, and though at that particular time, few things American found any favor in England, yet that conservative paper printed it at length (July 8, 1817). The editor adds; "When we look at the simplicity and dignity of its manner, the beauty of its style, the purity of its language, the elegance of its diction, and the originality of the composition, we have no hesitance in saying, that we consider it one of the most splendid State Papers that have ever yet appeared".

Successful as Wolcott's administration was from the beginning, the election was bitterly contested. This was especially true of his home town. He wrote of it to his son-in-law, George Gibbs, April 7, 1817, "Our Election has been held here this day. In this Village Gov. Smith had 222, and your humble servant 322 votes.





THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK







GOVERNOR OLIVER WOLCOTT JR.



I own that I am pleased with obtaining the majority in this Town, as every possible exertion has been made to oppose me. I know that seven eighths of the Town are pleased with the result, though many of them dare not confess it".

Of his administration we cannot properly speak in this book, but mention should again be made of the State Constitution which was adopted the following year, 1818, by the General Assembly. He was the president of the Convention which prepared this admirable document, and is said to have written the greater part of it himself. It provided at length an adequate Constitution for our State, which was then in the anomalous position of being known to many as the Constitution State, (from the circumstance of its having adopted in 1639 the first of the Colonial Constitutions, which became the model for all later State Constitutions), and yet of having no proper Constitution of its own, to meet the changed conditions of a free government.

Of the provisions of the new Constitution, none seemed at the time more radical to the Federalists than what they considered the disestablishment of the Congregational Church. "It was as dark a day as I ever saw", wrote Lyman Beecher, "The odium thrown upon the ministry was inconceivable. The injury done to the cause of Christ, as we then supposed, was irreparable. For several days I suffered what no tongue can tell *for the best thing that ever happened to the State of Connecticut*. It cut the churches loose from dependence on State support. It threw them wholly on their own resources and on God".

We may leave this glimpse of the most important political moment in the history of Litchfield with the wise words of George C. Woodruff (p. 56): "A spirit of liberality has in general existed between different religious sects, and a feeling of good will between all classes. Party spirit it is true has prevailed among political partisans, and formerly embittered to some extent social intercourse. But notwithstanding the calumny which at different times has been heaped upon different individuals, and upon opposing parties, its effect has been temporary, and after the heat of contest has subsided, men have learnt the injustice of which they have been guilty, and that neither all that is excellent is to be found exclusively with the one party, nor all that is bad exclusively with the other. And if any there are who disbelieve a truth so obvious, they receive, in this respect, no countenance from those whose opinions are worthy of regard".

## CHAPTER XVII.

### TREES AND PARKS.

The trees of Litchfield are its crowning beauty to-day. It is hard to picture the village, especially North Street and South Street, before the elms had been planted there. The early settlers were so greatly concerned with the clearing of their fields that they naturally gave no thought to the planting of new trees for decorative purposes. Indeed the story goes that when Oliver Wolcott Jr. began to set out trees along the Litchfield streets, one of the by-standers, an old man who remembered the early days of struggle against the forest, exclaimed: "We have worked so hard in our day, and just finished getting the woods cleared off, and now they are bringing the trees back again!"

From very early days a few persons foresaw the desolation that would follow if all the trees were cut, not to mention the economic loss if no future wood supply was provided for. In the *Monitor* for January 3, 1798, is reprinted an article which sounds a warning in this direction, adding: "Would it not be a regulation well deserving the attention of the General Court, to require every town to plant the sides of the public roads with forest trees? . . . The planting quick growing trees, as Willow, Lombardy Poplar, Balm of Gilead, etc., certainly deserves attention. Even the elms, ash-trees, button-woods and maples will pay for planting by their growth".

Coming down to the influences which prompted the planting of our streets, we find two men giving actual inspiration to this work, besides the individual interest of the men who at different times did the planting. These men were James Hillhouse of New Haven and Lyman Beecher.

James Hillhouse had planted great numbers of the elms in New Haven, which gave the name of the City of Elms to that place. He interested many of the Yale students in the work he had done, which was already showing results, and when Oliver Wolcott Jr. returned from the College, he brought with him the inspiration that started the movement of tree planting here.

The influence of Lyman Beecher was very much later, after a great part of the work had already been accomplished. It is worth recording, however. On July 18, 1824, Catharine Beecher wrote to her brother Edward: "Yesterday I heard two of father's very best sermons. The afternoon sermon perfectly electrified me. I wish it could be heard by all young men in the country. Among other things, he exhibited the ways in which they might do good, and the blessedness of it. We saw a small specimen of its effect this afternoon, when, in playful obedience to some exhortations to a laudable

public spirit, a party of our young townsmen turned out to transplant forest trees wherever they are needed through our streets". (Autobiography, Vol. II., p. 15).

The story of our trees has been told several times. Miss Mary Perkins Quincy read a paper on their history before the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter, D. A. R. in 1901, accompanying a tree-map of the Borough, which is framed in the rooms of the Litchfield Historical Society. This was also accompanied by a paper by Prof. W. E. Britton, entitled *Tree Notes*. Prof. Henry S. Munroe, in 1919, read a paper before the Litchfield Garden Club, on the *Age of the Litchfield Trees*. The following incidents connected with the planting of our trees are selected from the mass of information furnished by these admirable Essays.

When Oliver Wolcott returned from New Haven under the influence of James Hillhouse's exhortation to plant trees he set out thirteen Button-wood or Sycamore trees to commemorate the thirteen states of the new Republic. Of these only one survives: "Connecticut", happily enough, which stands in front of the Roman Catholic Church. The large sycamore on East Street, near the Library, is believed by some to be another of this planting; but this is improbable if only because no name has come down for it. Nearly all, too, were planted along South Street, though the exact sites are uncertain. Soon after the planting of these Sycamores, an illness which attacked this kind of tree killed many of those then standing in various parts of town, and turned the attention of the planters chiefly to elms. These grew in many of the outlying swamps and could be brought in to town on the shoulders. Oliver Wolcott Jr. and his brother, Frederick Wolcott, about 1790, planted many of the elms now so beautiful along both sides of South Street. There is a legend that they omitted to plant any in front of the house occupied by Reynold Marvin, the King's Attorney, now owned by Mrs. H. G. Mendenhall, because of the unpopularity of his Tory views. The story is doubtful, owing to the friendship of the Wolcott and Marvin families; we know at least that at the melting of the bullets in the Wolcott orchard, the ladies of the Marvin household ran the largest number of bullets to be used in defence of the American cause. Further, there are now elms in front of this house, but it may be true that they are of smaller size and of later date.

John C. Calhoun is the next distinguished name among the planters of the Litchfield elms. He was graduated at the Law School in 1805. He had the happy thought to set out a few elms in front of the houses where he boarded, first at the corner of West and Spencer Streets, and then on Prospect Street, where Mr. MacMartin now lives. This was then owned by Reuben Webster, and Hosea Webster, the host's little son, used to tell many years later how he held the trees when Calhoun planted them. Only one of the Calhoun trees survives on Prospect Street and one on West Street.



At about the same time, the Misses Pierce, who built their own house on the site of the present Underwood House on North Street in 1803, planted several maples on their frontage on the street. Two of these survive. Their growth has been less rapid than that of the Calhoun Elms, which now average 113 inches, while the maples average only 91 inches, in circumference.

In 1812, there was an encampment of soldiers on the Bantam Road, a little east of the residence of Milo Beach. During their stay here the men planted a double row of elms by their camp, a number of which are flourishing.

In 1825, James K. Gould, a son of Judge Gould, and Origen S. Seymour, then just graduated from Yale, planted elms on the east side of North Street, from the corner up as far as the present residence of Charles H. Coit. Two are standing west of Miss Edith D. Kingsbury's house on the corner, one on the lawn at the entrance of the Misses Kingsbury's house, and a fourth before the Coit house.

In 1850, Miss Lucretia Deming, the daughter of Julius Deming, planted the row of Lindens before the Deming house, now the home of the Misses Kingsbury, from which the house takes its name. She also planted many of the trees of various varieties in the grounds. The oak grove was planted from acorns somewhat later.

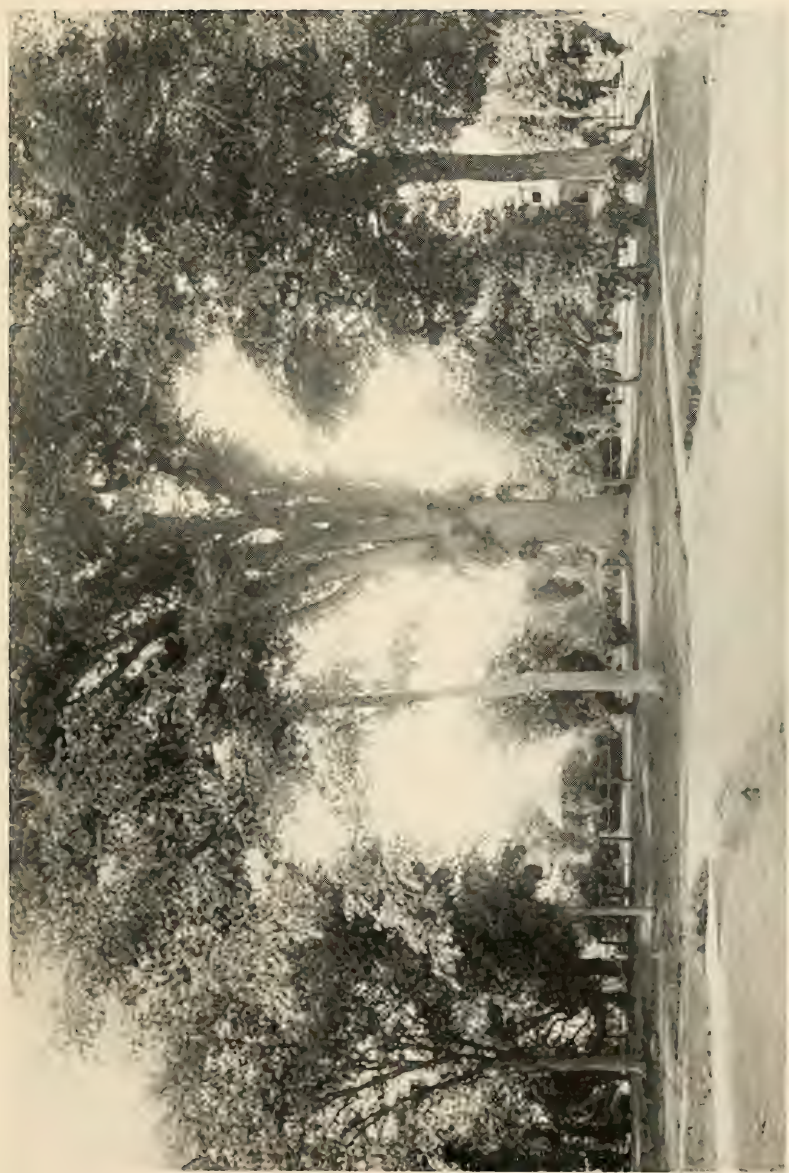
One of the most devoted lovers of trees in Litchfield was Gideon H. Hollister. He was the author of the History of Connecticut, published in 1855, a monumental work, much of which was written while he lived at the Tallmadge house. Like Calhoun, he had the happy faculty of setting out trees wherever he lived; and fortunately he lived in many different houses, some rented and some owned by him. Many of the fine trees in the grounds and along the Street, at the Lindley and Mendenhall houses on South Street and at the Vanderpoel and Frederick Deming houses on North Street were planted by him while he was living in these respective places. He also set out a row of elms on East Street near the Colvocoresses house, though it does not appear that he lived there. The trees *in front* of the Vanderpoel house were set out by Col. Tallmadge and William Curtis Noyes.

"Hardly could a more touching legacy", says Miss Quincy, "have been left to Litchfield than the long row of elms by the roadside across Harris Plain. In the year 1862, the young men who lived West of the Center, remarkable for their enterprise and known as the flower of the town, were among those who went to the Civil War. Before they left they planted these memorial trees as their last gift to their home district. Among these young men were E. Goodwin Osborn, Lyman J. Smith Jr., Francis Barber, the Vails, the Plumbs, the Wadhams, and Captain George W. Mason".

It was the father of one of these men, Lyman Smith Sr., a prominent merchant, who planted the beautiful elms from which Elm Ridge received its name.

A number of Memorial Trees have been planted in recent years, but until time has given fuller size to the trees and hallowed the





THE BIRCHER FLM







THE LITCHFIELD COUNTY HOUSE AND JAIL, 1812, AND  
WHIPPING-POST ELM



occasions which they commemorate they can hardly claim individual mention. Exception should be made for the little evergreen on the grave of William W. Rockhill, in the East Burying Ground, which was sent from China in 1915 by Yuan Shi Ki, as a Memorial to one who did so much to help that unfortunate country at a very difficult moment.

It is impossible to enumerate here all our historic trees; the orchards have not yet been mentioned. There have been many in the town, due at least in part to the popularity of cider in the olden days. Some of the old trees from the orchard of Lynde Lord are still alive at the end of Tallmadge Avenue. There is an old apple tree behind the house of W. G. Rosbach, which is the only survivor of a large orchard planted by Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Frederick Wolcott, who inherited this part of his father's property, was annoyed by the boys stealing fruit from the out-lying parts of the orchard. One transgressor boldly carried a bag of stolen apples to the Wolcott house, and offered them for sale. Frederick Wolcott, recognizing the apples as coming from his orchard, was so enraged that he ordered most of the trees cut down. (Miss Esther H. Thompson, *Waterbury American*, 1902).

When the buildings were taken out of the Commons, between 1820 and 1827, attention began to be directed to the beautifying of this part of town. In 1835 the sum of \$600 was subscribed for grading, fencing and setting out trees in the village parks, and the work was completed in 1836. The Center Park was the thought of Miss Mary Pierce, the younger sister of Miss Sarah Pierce. This land was originally the parade ground of the militia, and it was here that Col. Francis Bacon used to drill his Company. In the East Park Henry L. Goodwin had a large share in the planting and care of the trees; while twenty years later, George M. Woodruff, on his return from Yale College in 1858, planted about 50 more elms, completing the work. The West Park was planted by the late David Bulkley, the cabinet maker and antiquarian.

There are three other elms that should be mentioned, though it is not recorded who planted them, these are the Whipping Post Elm, the Beecher Elm, and the Sign Post Elm. The Whipping Post Elm, by the County House, is the largest elm in the town, and according to Professor Munroe is probably older than the Revolution and possibly close on 200 years old. Gen. Wessells used to tell of seeing a man tied to the tree, and given forty lashes save one, as was the custom, probably about 1815. The second largest elm in town is the Beecher Elm, which has a circumference of 146½ inches compared with 150 inches for the Whipping Post Elm. This marks the approximate site at the corner of North and Prospect Streets of the old Beecher House. The Sign-Post Elm, at the corner of South and East Streets, is not as large as the other two, or as several others in the town, but it has the historic interest of having

advertised on its calm flank the legal notices and of having seen conducted in its shadow the Sheriff's sales of many years.

The elms of Litchfield have filled with unconscious happiness not only those so fortunate as to live near them, but the many visitors to Litchfield, who carry away the memory of their splendor. They are trees to come back to, and are the first subject spoken of by Henry Ward Beecher, in his *Litchfield Revisited*, 1856: "The morning after our arrival in Litchfield we sallied forth alone. The day was high and wide, full of stillness and serenely radiant. As we carried our present life up the North Street, we met at every step our boyhood life coming down. There were the old trees, but looking not so large as to our young eyes. The stately road had, however, been bereaved of the buttonball trees, which had been crippled by disease. But the old elms retained a habit peculiar to Litchfield. There seemed to be a current of wind which at times passes high up in the air over the town, and which moves the tops of the trees, while on the ground there is no movement of wind. How vividly did that sound from above bring back early days, when for hours we lay upon the windless grass and watched the top leaves flutter and marked how still were the under leaves of the same tree!"

The healthy condition of our elms to-day, when in some towns they have suffered so much from droughts and other causes. is attributed to the subsoil of hardpan, deposited by the glacier on so many of our hilltops, causing those occasional swamps which still surprise us as existing in apparent defiance of the law of gravitation. The elm is a swamp tree, growing most luxuriantly on the banks of our streams, and its roots find a congenial environment in the subsoil swamp of Litchfield Hill, below the level to which the drainage has as yet been carried.

#### DOMESTIC AND WILD ANIMALS.

In Colonial times, animals, both domestic and wild, were a matter of much more general concern than they now are. To-day one's own domestic animals are a source of pleasure or profit to one's self only, and if we go fishing or hunting it is again for our own pleasure. We no longer are concerned in town meetings with the restraint of our neighbor's geese or boars, nor do we offer bounties for wolves and rattlesnakes. Yet time was when these were very serious matters. It may be an exaggeration, but not a very great one, to say that not a town meeting was held prior to the Revolution and for twenty years afterwards but one or more votes came up about animals. The great source of discussion was the use of the Commons. Our streets, which delight us by their breadth, were then even wider than they are to-day; but this width was not entirely a matter of foresight, as is sometimes supposed, when our first settlers are given credit for having visualized our broad roadways, lined with beautiful rows of trees. Trees were not thought

of before the Revolution, as has been seen, beyond being considered a nuisance in the fields, to be cleared as rapidly as possible. The wide streets were primarily planned as a grazing place for the live stock, especially at night, when they could be brought in from the outlying pastures, and herded safely out of reach of the prowling red man.

The picket fences, now an object of occasional ornament, and the chestnut rail fences, now entirely disappeared from our streets, were then an essential part of any home, which the fence-viewer required to be kept up to the proper standard of strength. After the erection of one's own log cabin and of the meeting house, not even the garrisons against the Indians took precedence over the fences in point of urgency of construction.

At the town meeting on December 17, 1722, it was Voted, "That the swine shall run at large upon the comone and every man whose swine shall do damage to any neighbors shall pay the damage whether there be fence or no till the first of May next and after that time the owner of swine shall have liberty to have said fence proved by the fence viewers and if not lawfull fence not to pay damage".

The hayward had full charge of the commons and of the pound, and the fence viewers were the court of appeal when the animals at large did any damage. Neither was an official greatly to be envied.

Votes were passed regulating in turn every kind of animal and fowl, the sentiment one year being for the greatest possible liberty and another for the greatest possible restraint. Many of these votes appear laughable to us. Some of them follow:

Town Meeting, April 7, 1783: Voted that no Hogs be suffered to go at large on the Highways or elsewhere in this Town after the twentieth instant without being well ringed in the nose or snout on penalty of Forfeiture of two shillings lawful money and Poundage for each Hog so found at large without being ringed as aforesaid and in order to prevent Mischief by such Hogs voted that Capt. Solomon Marsh, Capt. Lynde Lord, Ens. Ozias Goodwin, Ozias Lewis, and John Horsford be a Committee to carry this vote into effectual execution.

Town Meeting, May 12, 1783: Voted to restrain Horses from running at large on the Highways and Commons.

Town Meeting, December 8, 1791: Voted to restrain Boars from running at large after they are three months old under forfeiture of three shillings lawful money. Voted to restrain the Rams in this Town from the 10th of September to the 1st of November for the year ensuing.

Town Meeting, December 15, 1801: Voted to repeal the Vote making Hogs free Commoners under certain restrictions passed April 1796.

Town Meeting, November 26, 1805: Voted that all Geese taken Damage Feasant after this date shall be liable to be impounded



and the Proprietor shall pay to the Person impounding said Geese six cents per head damages.

Town Meeting, November 11, 1806: Voted that to a former law or vote passed in this Town in November last respecting Geese the same penalty and restriction be added to restrain Turkies and that they be proceeded with accordingly.

With so many animals at large together in our streets the question of individual ownership was a very pressing one. Ownership was determined primarily by branding, and in the original title to the town given by the General Assembly in May 1719, a special brand, the figure 9, was assigned to Litchfield. But in addition each individual had his or her separate brand. Charles Shepherd Phelps, in his charming *Rural Life in Litchfield County*, published by the Litchfield County University Club, 1917, gives a number of these brands, thus: "A cross on the off ear taken out". "As the marks on record increased", (p. 21), "the style of the marking became more complicated, as, a cross cut on the off ear and a slit in the cross of the near ear and a slit in the under side of the near ear.

"The taking of stray animals, and their impounding and sale when not claimed by the owner, was also common, as shown by the following, copied from the Litchfield town records: Two red yearlen heffers marked with a cross in the off ear and one black yearlen heffer with some white upon the rump, white under bolly and sum white upon the inside of the hind leggs—also marked with a cross in the off ear—which heffers are in the custody of Thomas Lee and have been prized by his desire on the 27th day of November last by us, by the sum of three pounds and fifteen shillings, by us John Baldwin, Joseph Bixy. The above named heffers are put upon record this fifth day of December Anno Domini 1723".

A good many advertisements of strayed cattle are given in the early Monitors, sometimes with curious identification marks, of which the following is a sample, (Monitor, November 14, 1796): "Strayed from the subscriber some time in July last, a yearling Steer, marked with a swallow tail in the off ear, two half pennies the under side of the near ear, and a slit in the end of the same; of a red colour, white face, red hair round his eyes. Whoever will take up said steer and give information thereof, shall be well rewarded by David Beach". The etymology of the word *ear-marks* is sufficiently apparent here.

Litchfield has always been a good dairying country, and the amount of live stock has probably been large from the earliest days. The only mention of the purchase of any stock in the town records, is the appropriation on January 1, 1722, of 30 shillings advanced by the Town towards obtaining three bulls for the Town use. Morris, p. 90, says that there were shorn in this town in May and June 1811, 6,784 sheep.



The end of the Common and the beginning of Litchfield's Park system dates from about 1820. The buildings were taken out of the Green about the same time, the last one to go being the second Congregational church, which was taken down in 1827, the year after the departure of Lyman Beecher. Although the alder swamps had probably been drained considerably before this date, the center of the streets were still unsightly, full of loose stone and brush, together with the little mounds with whortleberry bushes which Oliver Wolcott Jr. said the truants from school hid behind. About 1820, the citizens got permission to enclose the center of Meeting House Street, in connection with some of the tree planting which was then becoming popular, and the day of the public pasture gradually came to a close. At first many ludicrous and stormy scenes and wordy battles occurred when the haywards attempted to confine the trespassing cattle, but changes come quickly and by the time the Parks were more formally laid out, say 1835, the old Commons was already almost forgotten.

Turning to the wild animals, we read in Morris, p. 88, "Many years after the settlement of this town, deer, bears, and wild turkeys, were numerous. Deer and bears have been taken by hunters between the years 1760 and 1770, and turkeys at a later period. Wild-cats occasionally visit us, and destroy sheep and lambs. A small tract near the north-east part of this town is rough and ledgy, and affords them a refuge from hunters and their dogs. Considerable mischief was done by them in the winters of 1811 and 1812".

"There are persons yet living", (Kilbourne, p. 62), "who remember when bears and wolves were hunted in Blue Swamp, and deer and wild turkeys were frequently seen within two miles of the Court House; when Indians, in companies of twenty or thirty, were accustomed to make their annual visits to this town, encamping on Pine Island, or along the Lake-shore, the men employing themselves in hunting and fishing, while the squaws made and peddled baskets and brooms. Foxes, minks, musk-rats, rabbits, woodchucks and raccoons are now frequently trapped within the limits of this township".

Bounties were offered in the earliest days of the settlement for killing wolves and rattlesnakes. Thus, at a Town Meeting, May 16, 1740, we find "Voted, that whosoever shall kill and destroy any rattlesnakes within the bounds of the Town any time before the 10th day of December next, bringing the tayl and som of the flesh to any one of the Select men of the Town shall have three pence for each snake". We do not, however, find any appropriations made of town funds for the payment of these bounties, and the catch was probably small. To-day, it is said that no Rattlers exist between the Naugatuck and Housatonic Rivers, though they are said to be found on the further side of both those rivers on rare occasions. However, one fine haul of snakes is reported in the Monitor, December 3, 1787, "A few days since, in this town, upwards

of Three Hundred and Forty Snakes of every species excepting the rattle, were found sheltered under a meadow bog; where, it is supposed, they had taken up winter quarters”.

The only mention of wolves in the Monitor occurs in 1806, when four are reported to have been killed in Norfolk, very probably these were the last in the County. The residence of Bertram Lewis, at the foot of Brush Hill, is known as Wolf Pit Farm, the Wolf Pit having at one time been made there by Captain Joseph Vaill, who built this, the oldest house in the township (now much remodeled), in 1744. Miss Alice Bulkeley, *Historic Litchfield*, 1907, p. 12, describes the construction as “simple, but effective; an excavation in the ground was surmounted by heavy logs so arranged that they would fall upon and crush a wolf when it tugged at the bait fastened at a figure 4 trap underneath”.

Regarding bears, the tradition is that the last one was killed long ago after being treed into the big oak back of the residence of John P. Elton on North Street, which itself is supposed to be the last survivor of the primeval forest remaining within the borough limits. Amos Benton, the father of Horatio Benton, used to tell that in 1774, when he was three years old, a bear passed but a few rods from him while he was playing near the brook by his home. The alarm was given and his father and some of the neighbors started in pursuit, but did not succeed in killing it.

The only animal which, after being locally exterminated, has returned to us is the deer. “Captain Salmon Buel, now in his ninety second year”, wrote Kilbourne in 1859, “has seen wild deer in the swamp between his residence and the village”. For about a hundred years no deer were seen; they were protected for ten years previous to 1917, throughout the state, and returned in considerable numbers, presumably from the Adirondacks, wintering successfully in our swamps.

“The fish in our waters are various”, Morris, p. 88, “In the Great, Little and Cranberry Ponds, and their tributary streams, no trout have ever been taken. The fish in these waters are eels, perch, roach, suckers, shiners, red-fins, and bull-heads or cat-fish. In the winter of 1809, twenty eight pickerel were taken in a pond in Southwick, near Granby, transported in casks of water by sleighs, and put into the Cranberry Pond. Their progeny now begin to be taken in considerable numbers. What effect they will have in destroying the former occupants, remains to be proved. Probably the shiners, red-fins, and smaller perch will many of them be destroyed; yet it is thought that the pickerel will be a valuable acquisition”.

A previous experiment with pickerel was authorized in April 1779, when Capt. John Marsh was granted by the Town the exclusive Pickerel Fishing rights in the Loon or Cranberry Pond, “provided he shall at his own expense procure pickerel to breed and propagate therein in a reasonable time”. It seems however that

no advantage was taken of this privilege. How successful the pickerel have been since 1809 needs no comment. They were for a long time the great fish of Bantam Lake, being known as Bantam Shad. More recently black bass were put into the Lake, and are now the chief aim of the fishermen. Other fish have been put into our waters on several occasions, the latest experiment being the salmon trout in 1919 by the Connecticut Fish Commission.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### SOUTH FARMS, MILTON, NORTHFIELD AND BANTAM.

Until 1859, the present township of Morris formed an integral part of Litchfield, and was an important factor in our population and acreage. In 1810, its population was 1,238, probably the largest figure it attained. When the towns were divided, the population is estimated at 675.

The early history of this parish has been well told by Woodruff, pp. 53-55: "In May 1740, the Inhabitants of South Farms petitioned the Legislature, to be annexed to the north Society of Woodbury, now Bethlehem. A committee of the Town of Litchfield was appointed to oppose it, and the application was unsuccessful. Several attempts were made to procure their incorporation as an Ecclesiastical Society, which did not succeed till 1767, when an act of the Legislature for that purpose was passed. In 1753, there were but 30 families in the parish; when it was incorporated it contained 70.

"But the Legislature long before that time granted the Inhabitants power to maintain the public worship of God among them for three months during the winter, and this right was called the 'Winter Privilege'. They thereupon exercised the ordinary powers of an Ecclesiastical Society. Their first meeting for such purposes was holden on the 23d Nov. 1748, at the house of Capt. Thomas Harrison . . . and Public Worship was held in different sections, at the School and Private Houses. The first School House was voted to be built in 1747. Twenty pounds was given from the Town Treasury for that purpose".

There are two Cemeteries in the limits of the South Farms parish. The older, for which liberty was granted in 1747, is now known as the Morris Cemetery, and lies on a hill, with slope to the southwards. Some of the graves near the road are marked by very old stones, many well-nigh illegible. The first person buried in this grave-yard was James Stoddard, who was killed at the raising of a dwelling in March 1749. In connection with the funerals at this Burying Ground, a vote of the Society, passed March 14, 1759, survives, which is one of the most singular examples of old orthography in any of our records. This was, "to pay Charles Woodruff six shillings for ye Bears to carry ye Dead".

The second Cemetery was authorized in 1776, in Footville or West Morris. "The sanctity of burial places", Woodruff, p. 54, "seems not to have been very highly regarded"; for the deed from Thomas Waugh of the land to be used specifies that "said Thomas





MORRIS WOODRUFF







RESIDENCE OF HORATIO BENTON, SOUTH FARMS



Waugh his heirs and assigns shall have good right forever to enclose said Burying Yard, and use it for pasturing, provided, he or they shall keep up and maintain convenient bars for the people to pass and repass, for the purpose of burying their dead".

"In the year 1764", Morris, p. 104, "the inhabitants agreed to build their first church. It was only one story high, 34 feet by 32". The original vote of the Society authorizing this church gives slightly smaller proportions, as follows: "25 by 35 ft. with 9 ft. posts provided Justice Gibbs will do it by Dec. 1st, for seventy pounds ten shillings, plank body, clapboards on the outside, 10 windows of 24 panes 6 by 8 inches, floor well lined, sealed with pine, one door, point the cracks between the planks with clay, decent pulpit, one-half to be paid in proc. bills (?), and one-half in specie". Later voted "A Quillion" and later "two pairs of stairs and foarms were built in the gallery".

"The greatest puzzle", Morris Herald, September, 1899, "was the gallery in a church with posts only 9 feet high. Probably the space under the roof was included in the room and the gallery was at the end, with the gallery floor dropped a little below the plates".

A second church, more suitable in size to the needs of the growing community and to use all the year, instead of for the winter privileges only, was planned as early as 1774, but the War prevented its construction until 1785. It was a more pretentious structure than most churches of that day. The main entrance was a high double door over which was a large carved pine apple and other carved work. (Morris Herald, January, 1900). "Over the pulpit was the inevitable sounding board, described as a Turkish minaret, surmounted by a scarlet tulip. On each panel of the base of the sounding board was a carved bunch of grapes, and on the front of the pulpit, which was over six feet in height, were five rows, three bunches each, of carved bunches of grapes, a bright purple in color and two grape leaves to each bunch, of natural size. On wood work behind the pulpit were two narrow green stripes, surmounted by scarlet tulips. There was but one stairway for the pulpit, on the left side, while down in front of the pulpit was the deacons' seat. The seats were arranged on three sides of the square pews, so that one third of the people would sit back to the minister. In the early days the people were seated according to social position, which was determined by wealth chiefly. This custom provoked jealousies and, in 1827, it was voted that the congregation should be 'seated by age without regard to list' ... In a great gale of wind in 1822, the steeple was blown down and the bell broken. In 1824, a stove was for the first time set up in the church. ... The church stood in an exposed spot and in spite of the stoves in severe weather it was impossible to heat the church, and it was taken down in 1844 and the present Church took its place. When it was torn down, Dibble Smith, an intense Universalist, obtained the old pulpit and took a part of it to the match

shop located where the Waterbury Reservoir now is and had it made into matches. He said they ought to burn well, for the pulpit must be well seasoned by the brimstone theology preached in it".

The Rev. David Lewis Parmelee was the pastor in South Farms from 1841 until after the parish had become a separate township, and he was largely instrumental in having the third church built. He was greatly interested in the parish, and was the largest subscriber to the church, and gave the sum of \$1,000. for the construction of an adjoining chapel. He was very strict in the observance of the Sabbath, and used to feed his horse on Saturdays to last over the day. South Farms has been fortunate in having such leaders as he was, and still more in James Morris of the Morris Academy.

Under the direction of the latter, the first Library in the town of Litchfield was founded in South Farms in 1785. "In the year 1791, a constitution was formed; and the proprietors became more numerous. The library consists of between 300 and 400 volumes of well-chosen books, of ancient and modern history and divinity" (Morris, p. 106).

A debating society, formed in 1842, should also be mentioned. This was the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Society of South Farms for Moral and Intellectual Improvement. It had a large membership, and had an active but short existence of six years. Among the subjects debated, we find the following: "Has the introduction of manufacturing establishments into our country as a whole been injurious to public morals?" This was decided in the affirmative. "Is matrimony more conducive to happiness than celibacy?" This also was answered in the affirmative. The last subject recorded is: "Is the credit system beneficial to the community?" This seems to have been too much for the society, which never met again.

#### THE MORRIS ACADEMY.

In addition to the Law School and Miss Pierce's Academy, there was within the then limits of the town a third educational institution, more modest in its scope, yet which achieved important results. This was the Academy of James Morris in South Farms. He was born January 19, 1752. He himself has told us of its scope in the Statistical Account, written in 1812-4, (p. 105): "An Academy was begun in South-Farms, in the year 1790; in which are taught the Latin and Greek languages, English grammar, arithmetic, mathematics, rhetoric, logic, and moral philosophy. Several gentlemen within the parish and in the town of Litchfield built the house by subscription, at the expense of \$1,400. More than 1,400 scholars, of both sexes, have been members of this school. More than 60 of these have entered Yale and other colleges. The school still continues. It was originally instituted for the purpose of

improving the manners and morals of youths, and of attracting their attention from frivolity and dissipation”.

The achievement of the results here so modestly described was not an easy one. To build up in the conditions then prevailing, as we shall see, in South Farms, an educational center capable of influencing the entire community and of sending out graduates with the ideals of John Pierpont, John Brown of Osawatomie, Samuel J. Mills, Jr., and at least two of the sons of Lyman Beecher, was a work requiring a remarkable personality in its founder, and there is no question that Mr. Morris was a remarkable and splendid man.

We are fortunate in that he left a narrative in manuscript, extracts from which have been printed in *Morris Herald* (March 1900), in the *Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society*, (Vol. III., 1878, part 2, pp. 172-4), and in Johnston's *Yale in the Revolution*, (pp. 74-77 and 138).

The extracts which have been printed are chiefly concerned with his services in the Revolution. He served from 1776 to the end of the war, with rank of Captain. He was a prisoner for over three years after the battle of Germantown, the experiences which he narrates being of much interest. We must, however, confine ourselves to a few quotations telling of his early life in South Farms and the starting of his life work. He began his *Memoirs* with these words: "In looking back to my early childhood I can well recollect that I was very much attached to my book ... In my youthful days I had an ardent desire to have a public education and my ultimate desire was to be a minister, but being the only son of my father he could not brook the idea of my leaving him for that purpose. He meant that I should be his earthly prop".

When he was eighteen his father acceded to his wishes for an education in so far as to say "that if I would go and sled home a certain quantity of wood that he had drawn off a piece of fallow ground the preceding summer I might go and try what I could do in the study of Latin. I then exerted myself, and in about a fortnight I had sledded home sixty loads of wood and loaded and unloaded the same". He then went and spent the winter with the minister in an adjoining town, tutoring especially in Latin. In the spring of 1770 he was called home to study under the minister in South Farms: "But", he says, "I made little progress, for every day I was interrupted; it was constantly said, James, you must go and bring some wood, you must get some oven wood and split it fine, you must go and bring up the old mare, your mother wants to ride out, you must go and fetch the cows, the pigs are in the garden, you must go and get them out". In spite of every difficulty he persevered, entered Yale, graduated in 1775, and began the study of theology. He did not consider himself fitted to be a minister, however, and after his return he and his wife, Elizabeth Hubbard of Middletown, made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Morris, Senior, both of whom were now in failing health. It was a restricted life



for the young couple. "My parents being advanced in the waning of life chose retirement, my mother especially could not be broken of her rest or be disturbed of her sleep. We often had evening visitors and they would often stay till after nine o'clock, and some noise would be made either in conversation or when they bid me good night and went out of the house. The next morning my mother would complain that she was so disturbed that she did not sleep, and that she could not have it so, that I should send off my company before nine o'clock. Finding my situation growing unpleasant, yet at the same time feeling disposed to do everything in my power to soothe the pillow of age and to render the condition of my beloved parents comfortable, I consulted my father on the subject and I informed him that I had it in contemplation to purchase the house and lands where I now live". It was not long before Morris found that he needed more land, but he had not the money to buy it. "But", he says naively, "a kind providence had hitherto always found a way of escape for me when I was either in difficulty or in danger. In June 1789, God was pleased to remove my dear father by death. A considerable sum of money and cattle were placed in my possession by which I was enabled to free myself from debt without any embarrassment. Thus I was prospered in my worldly concerns, though the removal of my father was a grievous stroke to me in the dispensation of providence".

He was much distressed at the condition of the people about him. "The church in this place was made up of numbers of ignorant, unprincipled and unexemplary men. They voted in church meeting that conversion should be no terms of communion at the Lord's Table, and this society ratified the same vote. Profane swearing and open Sabbath breaking and drunkenness were not uncommon among professors of religion. The young people were clownish, ignorant and uncivil in their recreation and amusements. They consisted chiefly of noisy and jovial mirth.

"The first effort that I made", continues Mr. Morris, "was to attract the attention of the children in the several schools". As an incentive he offered a prize to each of the eight from the several districts who should perform best in a public examination. Taking a continued interest in the school children, he began courses for them after school hours in English grammar and geography. "The young ladies were my first pupils; I took more pains with them in the outset in giving counsel than I did to the others because experience had taught me in my travels through the United States that in every town or village where there was a chaste or virtuous set of young ladies there was a decent class of young men".

He met with much opposition at first; people envied him for his position and hated him for his reforms. The opposition increased until in 1794 the Church took up the matter. A council was called and some of the neighboring churches sent delegates. The charge against him was that of disturbing the public peace. One of the witnesses testified that he occasionally walked home at night with



his young lady pupils. Nevertheless the council acquitted him. After this his school prospered and steadily increased. In 1803 the people of the Society and other friends in Litchfield built him the house which was called the Academy. When the district of South Farms was set off as a separate township in 1859, the residents paid James Morris a deserved tribute in giving his name to the town, and thus honoring the memory of his sturdy character and of all he did for the community and for the world in Morris Academy. The value of his work appears when we contrast the early conditions in the community with the somewhat remarkable intelligence and character of the citizens in the years when the influence of the Academy came to be fully realized. It appears also in the large number of men from other parts of the country who were educated here and have filled important positions in the world. A few of his pupils especially have exerted a wide influence.

John Pierpont was born in South Farms on April 6, 1785. After studying at the Morris Academy, he went to Yale (Class of 1804). He studied law at the Litchfield Law School. He became one of the most distinguished pastors of the Unitarian Church, occupying the pulpit of the Hollis Street Church in Boston from 1819 to 1845. He was also widely known as a poet in those days, and composed the Poem for the Litchfield County Centennial in 1851, which he recited with much effect. He was a vigorous anti-slavery advocate, and carried on the temperance crusade begun by Lyman Beecher. The freedom with which he expressed his opinions regarding the temperance cause led to a bitter controversy. While not strictly pertinent to the history of Litchfield, the following may be quoted as showing something of the *spirit* of the times:

"The cellar of his church was used by some of his parishioners who were engaged in the wholesale liquor business, to store their goods. Report says it was John Pierpont who wrote the following lines:

There's a spirit above,  
And a spirit below;  
A spirit of love,  
And a spirit of woe.  
The spirit above is the Spirit Divine,  
But the spirit below is the spirit of wine".

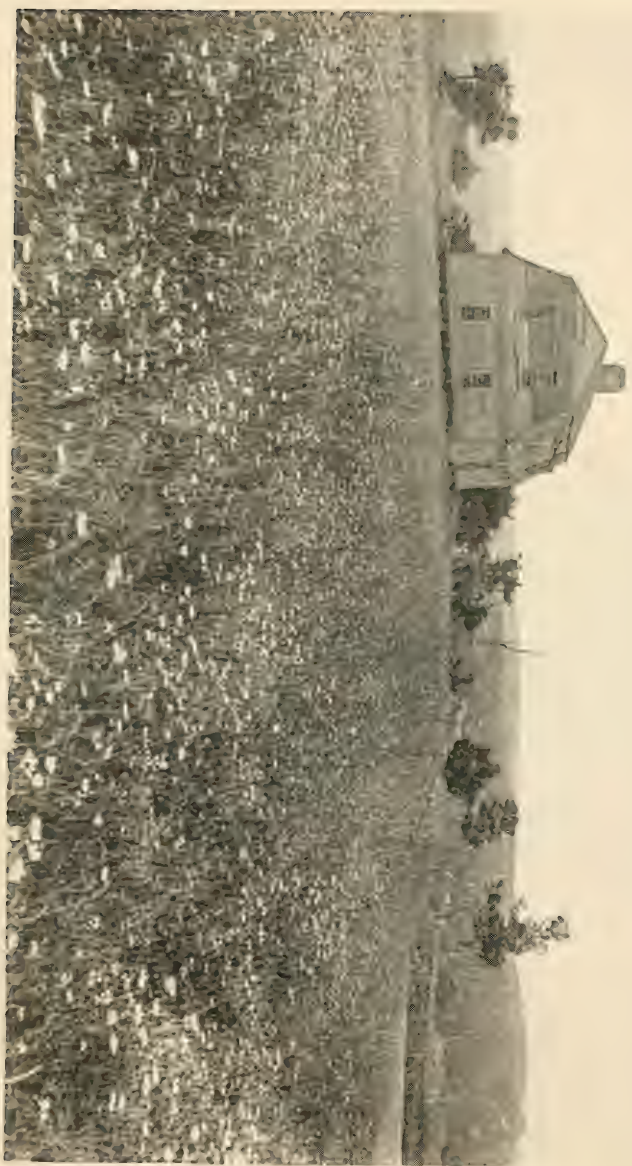
(Morris Herald, April 1899).

John Brown was born in Torrington on May 9, 1800. He came to the Academy with his brother Salmon about 1816 or a little later, and remained only one year. "He was not very popular with the other pupils; this may have been due to certain unamiable traits of character for which he admits his brothers criticised him, or simply to his conscientiousness of behavior. His disposition to attempt to right wrongs in a summary way appeared even at that early day. His younger brother Salmon was guilty of some offense for which he thought he ought to be punished, 'If Salmon had done

this at home', he said to the teacher, 'father would have punished him. I know he would expect you to punish him now for doing this, and if you dont I shall'. That night, more in sorrow than in anger, he gave him a severe flogging". (Morris Herald, Jan. 1899).

Salmon Brown was for a time in the employ of Morris Woodruff. His grandson, George M. Woodruff, tells that on one occasion, Morris Woodruff, upon his return from the legislature, was much annoyed to find that some of his directions concerning farm work had not been carried out. Upon which Salmon consoled him by saying: "Gin'ral, Gin'ral, don't you know that if a man wants anything did, he must did it himself?" We are not sure whether this anecdote speaks very well for the teaching of grammar at the Morris Academy!

Through his life Morris showed a deep interest in his fellow men, not only in the scholars directly in his charge. This characteristic led him to be greatly interested in missions; the mission school of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions being first connected with Morris Academy. The Litchfield County Foreign Mission Society was the first organized auxiliary of the Board, and dates from 1811. James Morris was largely instrumental in its undertaking, and was its Secretary from its inception until his death. About 1816 he founded a mission school at South Farms, which in May 1817 was transferred to Cornwall, where it became an object of great interest as an experiment before untried. The school was founded as a result of the finding in 1809 of a young Sandwich Island boy, Henry Obookiah, on a doorstep at Yale College. He was cared for by Rev. Edwin Welles Dwight, then a resident graduate at Yale. Samuel J. Mills Jr., who had been a pupil of James Morris at the Academy, became the companion of Mr. Dwight in New Haven, and so was deeply interested in the heathen boy and conceived the idea of educating him as a missionary to his native land. Gradually the idea grew of a school for native foreign missionaries; and when at last the school was opened at South Farms, Mr. Dwight became the first principal. On April 1, 1817, he wrote to his mother from the school: "I came at the request of the agents of the Heathen school to take charge of the Owhyhee boys. It is established by the board of commission of foreign missions and not long hence to have a very important connection with all our plans and efforts to spread the gospel. The object is to furnish a place for collecting and instructing all the heathen youth that may be thrown upon our country or sent to this country for education. Of the Owhyheeans, three or four are pious. It is very evidently God's design to prepare some of these young men to return as missionaries and interpreters to their own country". Samuel J. Mills Jr. did not live to see the success of the school. In 1818, on the return journey from Africa, whither he had gone to explore the West Coast with a view to founding a colonization project, he died at the early age of thirty five. In his short life, through his many and varied pioneer services for the cause of foreign missions,

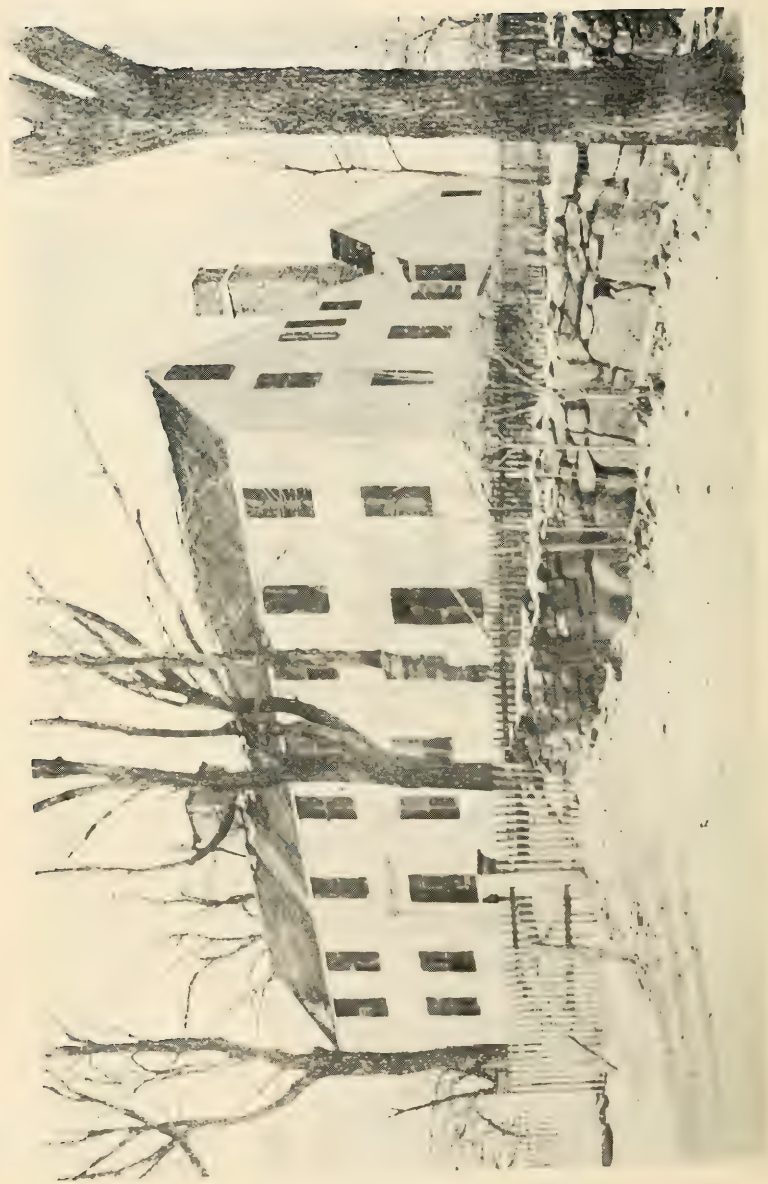


OLD MARSH HOUSE. NOTRE DAME HILL.









DAVID WELCH HOUSE, MILTON, 1745

he won the reputation of being the Father of American Missions. He is buried in Torrington, where he was born.

After removing to Cornwall the school grew very rapidly. The catalog of 1820 showed that the scholars were chiefly natives of the Sandwich Islands, one from Tahiti, one from the Marquesas, one Malay. There were also several American Indians. The school was discontinued in 1827, as it was found better to train native missionaries in their own lands. The detailed history of the school does not belong in this book. The life of Obookiah was written by Mr. Dwight in 1818, the work passing through 12 editions, the last in 1867. R. Henry W. Dwight, the biographer of his grand-father, has estimated that these several editions, in three languages, numbered not less than 50,000 copies, an enormous amount for those days. But the little seed of foreign missions, sowed in South Farms, cannot be counted in numbers, and though the story is virtually forgotten to-day its influence has been enormous.

In connection with this mission work, we notice that under the inspiration of James Morris and Morris Woodruff in South Farms, and of Julius Deming, Benjamin Tallmadge, Tapping Reeve and others in Litchfield, the support of Litchfield to the general Board was on a very liberal scale. "In the first years of the American Board for Foreign Missions its prospects were dark, and its supplies dubious. When the annual collection from Litchfield County first came into the Treasury of the Board, relieving it from some existing embarrassment, Dr. Worcester exclaimed 'I bless God for making Litchfield County'." (Semi-Centennial of the Litchfield County Foreign Mission Society, 1861, p. 25). The contribution from Litchfield in the spring of 1813, the first remittance, was \$1,354.11, truly a large one for the time, as the entire receipts of the Board for that year from the whole country were only \$11,361.18.

James Morris was taken ill while visiting the Mission School in Cornwall, and died on his way home, at Goshen, April 20, 1820. The work at his Academy was continued after his death by a Mr. Chapman, and in 1831 Samuel Morris Ensign, 1804-1888, became principal. He was a distinguished educator, and drew large numbers of pupils from the then western states, such as Ohio. The building of the Academy was torn down in 1892. For the last few years it had been used as a barn, the school being conducted in the home of Mr. Ensign. Some years before the latter's death the Academy practically ceased to exist.

#### NORTHFIELD.

The south-eastern part of our township, now known as Northfield, was first settled about 1760, but not incorporated as a parish until 1794. The parish, as laid out, included a part of Thomaston, then known as Northbury, or the north section of Plymouth. The name Northfield is a compound of the first syllable of Northbury and the last syllable of Litchfield.

Tradition says that the first settlers were John Humaston and Titus Turner, both of whom came from New Haven. Humaston built a sawmill on the stream just east of the cemetery, where a mill still stands, though not the same one. Here he sawed the lumber for the first frame house, which stood on the site of the present Post Office until it was burned in 1904, with the former Post Office just to the east. Turner's log house stood about a quarter mile west, on the south side of the present main street, but facing south on the earlier road.

James Marsh was the first child born in the settlement, September 22, 1762.

Prior to 1794, the settlement was called South-East Farms. The first recorded meeting of a Society was October 15, 1789, at which it was voted to hire a minister for the winter season of six months.

In 1791, application was made for liberty to have a burying ground. The first location was not satisfactory and was not used. On May 6, 1795, John Humaston made a gift to the Society of half an acre, on the present site, and this tract has been twice subsequently added to. He reserved to "Himself, his heirs and assigns forever the right of feeding said Ground".

Northfield is the only section of our township in which the Episcopal church was built before the Congregational. The First Episcopal Society of Litchfield Southeast Farms was organized at the house of John Humaston on September 5, 1793. Thirty six persons were enrolled as members at this meeting. The first church, 45 by 34 feet, was built on the Green, where the Soldier's Monument now stands, facing south, with a door at the west end also, and was completed in 1795. Rev. Joseph E. Camp officiated for a short time, addressing the Episcopalians in the morning and the Congregationalists in the afternoon. This building was consecrated as Trinity Church on October 19, 1836, by Thomas Church Brownell, Bishop of Connecticut. The present church was begun in 1865 and consecrated as Trinity Church on February 10, 1866, by John Williams, Bishop of Connecticut.

By gift of Mrs. Bennett Humiston in 1899 the Society acquired the house adjoining the church on the south, which has since been used as a rectory. Here the Rev. Adelbert P. Chapman, the rector from 1901 to 1917, conducted for several years a small Summer Home for Girls for the preventative treatment of Tuberculosis, an admirable charity, carried on with great devotion.

The Ecclesiastical Society of Northfield was incorporated at the session of the General Assembly, October 1794, the name being changed to the Congregational Society of Northfield in 1859. The Society was organized at the house of William Washburn at a meeting on January 1, 1795, with 14 enrolled members. Later in the year it was voted to adopt 'Deacon Dutton's plan' for a meeting house, 50 by 38 feet. The building was commenced in 1796, but not completed for use until 1803. It stood on the top of Northfield



Hill, a quarter of a mile north of the present Green. The present church was dedicated February 6, 1867.

The Society is endowed through a trust fund of \$10,000., received from the estate of Asa Hopkins, who died in 1838. He lived on the East Hill, where he began at a very early date the manufacture of wooden clocks; later he began the manufacture of flutes at Fluteville; and finally removed to New Haven, where he again manufactured clocks.

By the bequest of William L. Gilbert of Winsted, a native of Northfield, who died in 1890, the Society received the sum of \$4,000. for a parsonage, to include a room for a free Library, for which the further sum of \$8,000. was given. This building is located opposite the church, and was completed in 1896. The Librarian, from 1893 to 1907, was Levi S. Wooster, to whose faithful work in building up the Library, Northfield is very largely indebted for the fine collection of 5,500 books now included. Rev. Wallace Humiston is the present Librarian.

The first school, Litchfield District No. 14, was established in 1774. The school stood east of the road about half way from the present Congregational church to the top of the hill above. All traces of it disappeared long ago. In 1797, the Ecclesiastical Society appointed a committee which laid out the following districts: Center, Hopkins, Marsh, Fluteville, Mill and Guernsey Hill. Of these, Hopkins has long been abandoned, and Guernsey Hill more recently; while Mill is now in the town of Morris. A new building was furnished by Daniel Catlin about 1840 for use of the Center district, which the town later acquired and which is still standing, opposite the present Center School, built in 1885.

There have been at least two important private schools. Rev. Joseph E. Camp, during his long ministry with the Ecclesiastical Society, 1795-1837, fitted many boys for college. One of these was John Pierpont, who also studied at the Morris Academy.

Deacon John Catlin opened a private school in the old tavern of Jacob Turner about 1845. Among his pupils were Senator O. H. Platt, Judge Edward W. Seymour, Rev. Storrs O. Seymour, D. D., and James G. Batterson of Hartford, builder of the State Capitol.

There has been a Post-Office in Northfield since about 1836, when Daniel Catlin was postmaster. Prior to this time a weekly mail was delivered to the settlers by the rider to Hartford from Litchfield, beginning January 24, 1791.

About 1794 the mail was left at the store of Turner and Woodruff, and the trips were made twice weekly. Shortly after 1800, the mail was left at the tavern of Jacob Turner, which was a way station for the overland mail from Hartford to Albany. This house still stands, being the second house north of the Congregational Church.

Of the many industries which have been located in Northfield, the only one now active is the Northfield Knife Co., which was

incorporated in 1858, with John S. Barnes as President and Samuel Mason as Secretary, leasing and later buying the plant of an earlier factory, the Northfield Manufacturing Co. Barnes was succeeded as President by Mason, and in 1865 by Franklin H. Catlin, with J. Howard Catlin as Secretary and Treasurer. The business was rapidly built up, and has attained an enviable reputation for the finest grade of pocket cutlery. Exhibits were made at the World's Fairs at Philadelphia, 1876; Paris, 1878; Chicago, 1892; and Buffalo, 1901; prizes being received at each. At Buffalo, over a thousand styles of knives were shown. In 1919, the name and plant were sold to the Clark Brothers Cutlery Co., of Kansas City.

Among the natives of Northfield, John Pierpont Humiston should be mentioned as the inventor of the first duplex telegraph instrument. He was born 1816, a grandson of John Humaston, and was apprenticed as a boy to a local carriage maker. He bought his last year of service for \$342.50, for which amount he gave his note. After working in New Haven and Seymour, he turned his attention to electricity. His invention of the duplex telegraph allowed four messages to be sent over one wire, two each way. He also invented machines for the quick writing and receiving of telegraphic characters. He sold his patents to the American Union Co., at the time of the Civil War, and after many years in the courts realized only \$5,000., for patents which have proved of great value. The difficulty was caused by the Government taking over the American Union's lines, and that Company selling out to the Western Union. The latter Company did not recognize Humiston's claim, and although after a long lawsuit he obtained a verdict for \$16,000., the amount was greatly reduced by costs. Mr. Humiston died in Northfield at the age of 88, in 1904, and was at the time of his death the oldest resident of the village.

The facts relative to Northfield have been furnished by Albert M. Turner, the Field Secretary of the Connecticut State Park Commission. It is interesting to notice the important part that he and Horace Bushnell, also a native of our township, (he was born in Bantam in 1802), have played in the development of Connecticut parks.

Horace Bushnell was the originator of the project to make a public Park in the center of the city of Hartford. After a long fight for such an innovation, his plan was successfully carried through in 1854, the park now bearing his name. This was the first time that an appropriation of public funds was made in the state, and very possibly in the nation, for the purchase of land for park purposes. Heretofore, such parks or reservations as existed had been set apart out of public land or out of private gifts. It is hard to realize to-day, when millions of dollars are being spent annually by municipalities, states and the nation, for the purchase of land for park purposes and for the establishment of public forests,

how recently and with what difficulty the first appropriation of the kind was made.

Albert M. Turner, as Field Secretary of the State Park Commission, has been the chief instrument in carrying out the extensive plans of that body since its formation in 1913. This State was one of the last to have a Park Commission, but it has made up for lost time by its wise and energetic action. It is also interesting to note that the first gift to the Commission of land was made by Mrs. G. A. Senff, of New York, of a tract on Mount Tom, lying partly in Litchfield, and partly in Morris and Washington. The tower at the summit of Mount Tom is included in the area of this park. It was constructed in 1888, from a design by Professor Henry S. Munroe, of the Department of Mining of Columbia University and a summer resident of Litchfield; the tower is 30 feet high and was modeled after an oil well tower and was so well designed and built that it is still in service at the present time, having withstood the high winds and storms of 32 years. The tower is 1,291 feet above sea level at its base.

#### MILTON.

The village of Milton was settled from Litchfield about 1740. Some settlers also came from New Milford, notably David Welch, who built the oldest house now standing there, located at the entrance to the village on the Litchfield road. It dates from 1745 and is the oldest house anywhere in our township, with the single exception of the Vaill House, at the foot of Brush Hill, which is a year older, but extensively remodeled. The Welch house is now known as the Bissell House, as it was the home of William Bissell, who was Captain of the Litchfield Company in the Litchfield County Regiment in the Civil War. The house in Milton now known as the Welch House is situated at the farther extremity of the village and dates from 1774. This belonged to another branch of the same family.

There was no church in Milton, which was at first known as West Farms, until 1795, when the Parish was set off and incorporated, including parts of the townships of Goshen, Cornwall and Warren. The building of the Episcopal Church was begun in 1802. Morris says, p. 105, that neither of these churches was completed in 1814. The Episcopal church is said to have been completed in 1827, and to have been dedicated in 1837. The bell was added in 1843, a gift from Garry Welch and Hugh P. Welch. There has also been a Methodist church in Milton, which was moved to Bantam some years ago and converted into a dwelling.

The Burying Ground lies nearly a mile west of the village, in a sheltered valley, enclosed by a substantial wall of quarried stone. Charles T. Payne says, p. 174, that no record of the date when this Cemetery was laid out remains, beyond the evidence of several tombstones of the Revolutionary period. It is spoken of in a deed



of 1790, but is probably of considerably earlier date. Additions were made to it in 1813 and 1872.

"Within the parochial limits of Milton", says Morris, p. 105, "there are five saw-mills; two grist-mills; two iron works; one trip-hammer; one carding machine for wool; one machine for manufacturing wooden clocks; one waggon-maker; two turners; two shoemakers; six whole school districts; and six school-houses, in which schools are kept through the year, by males in the winter season, and by females in the summer. The price for schoolmasters, is from 9 to 12 dollars per month and their board; for school-mistresses, from 5 to 6 shillings per week and their board". By the concentration of industries in the valleys and by the centralization of the schools, this long list of a century ago is reduced to one mill and one school.

The Shepherd Knapp Fresh Air Home, which is located on the hill east of the village of Milton, was founded in 1905 by Mrs. Shepherd Knapp of Litchfield and New York, in memory of her husband. It is maintained as a branch of the New York Tribune Fresh Air Fund, and gives happy summer outings of two weeks each to a thousand or more city children every year.

Among the citizens of Milton should be mentioned one of the Revolutionary soldiers of the village, John Griswold, whom Elizabeth C. Barney Buel, in her lecture to the Litchfield Scientific Association, on the Industries of Litchfield, describes as the maker of the first model of an "iron Monitor". This he tested out on Milton Pond, so that it cannot have been very large. He never did anything with his invention, and heard of Ericsson's earliest experiments with an iron turreted ship only two days before he died, December 22, 1847. Ericsson's experiments did not bear fruit until the real Monitor was constructed, fifteen years later.

#### BANTAM.

The following account of Bantam has been summarized from data specially contributed by Herman Foster of that Borough. Originally the name Bantam was given to the whole district, covering so extensive an area that our Goshen was known as New Bantam prior to its settlement in 1738. When our township was denominated Litchfield in 1715, the name Bantam was used in a constantly more restricted sense, until at one time only the Lake and the Falls carried on the name. The remainder of the present village, towards the West, was known as Bradleyville, from the Bradley family, several branches of which were prominent here in the early Nineteenth Century. Here the old Bradleyville Tavern was the Mecca for excursions of the young people from Litchfield, and one of the regular stopping places for the four horse coaches from New York and Danbury.

The origin of the name Bantam has caused much perplexity. Morris and Woodruff attribute it without question to an Indian origin. Kilbourne suggested that it might have been derived from



an East Indian Bantam in Java. This remote town, being known to the early English traders as a wild region, inhabited by a race of barbarians, would, according to the Kilbourne theory, naturally have lent its name to a similar tract in the New World. His theory has always been interesting, but never entirely convincing. It should not be dismissed without a study of the various arguments he presents, which space prevents our reproducing here. We may add a curious circumstance to the evidence he presents, namely that, when Ohio was being settled largely from Connecticut after the sale of the Western Reserve lands, two of the villages near Cincinnati were called respectively Bantam and Batavia. They are nearer indeed to one another in Ohio than their namesakes are in Java, and the Bantam unquestionably came by way of our township. There are also, for those who seek a remote ancestor, a Cape Bantam in Indo-China, and a village of Bantama in the Gold Coast of Africa.

This plurality of barbarian Bantams suggests that the word is perhaps a corruption of some native jargon as heard by English ears, and this brings us back to the older hypothesis that it sprung from some phrase of our own Indian tribes. One interesting supposition says that Pe-an-tum meant a Praying Indian, referring to some early local chief converted perhaps by the first Moravian missionary visits into the Wilderness from the Dutch settlements beyond the Hudson. Unfortunately for such a tradition, no Moravians came to our parts until ten years or more after the name Bantam was in general use, and even then it is doubtful if they came any nearer than to New Milford. The sum total of the discussion is that we shall never know more of the etymology of Bantam than of that of the later name for the township, Litchfield. New evidence is more likely to confuse than to explain.

The outlet of Bantam Lake, as it approaches the present village of Bantam, tumbles nearly one hundred feet in the course of three-quarters of a mile, in which distance there were at one time six dams furnishing water power for as many varied industries. After leaving Bantam, the stream races on down the hills and through the valleys, until its waters finally are merged in the Shepaug River, passing on into the Housatonic River, and thence into Long Island Sound.

This wealth of water power has made Bantam potentially the richest section of the township. Recognition of the advantages presented was slow in coming. In the chapter on the older industries, we found here little beyond the paper mill and the other mills, not notably in advance of those elsewhere in the town. As the industries of Connecticut began to pass from the hilltops to the valleys in the forties, Bantam was still comparatively neglected. In 1876, C. F. Flynn and William Doyle formed the firm of Flynn and Doyle, took over the business of the earlier Litchfield Carriage Company, and, until 1911, carried on an extensive manufacture of carriages,

wagons and sleighs, reaching in some years an output of \$40,000. Their products were of a high standard and their market extended far beyond the state. In 1911, the Company was merged into the Flynn and Doyle Co., which was continued until the death of Mr. Flynn. Mr. Doyle carried on the business for another year, until 1918, when it was discontinued. In April, 1919, the factory was taken over by the Bantam Auto Repair Station.

It was not till about 1900 that the great growth of Bantam began. In twenty years the population has grown from 400 to 1,000, actually stemming the tide of declining population which for over a century has steadily been depleting the whole township. If our resident population is again to increase materially, the impetus will probably continue to come mainly from this growing industrial center. Besides the Flynn and Doyle Co., should be mentioned the Litchfield Electric Light and Power Co.; the Connecticut Electric Co., manufacturers of electric fixtures; the Trumbull-Vanderpoel Co., manufacturers of electric switches; and the Bantam Ball Bearing Co., manufacturers of ball and roller bearings. Further particulars regarding the business of these several plants will be found in the Appendix.

Another extensive industry of quite another kind is situated just outside of Bantam, on the north-west shore of the Lake. This is the Berkshire Ice Co., whose long trains pull out daily in the summer, carrying concentrated relief from the Litchfield Hills to the larger cities to the southwards. Some idea of the work done by the Company on the Lake during the coldest days of the winter may be gathered from the single fact that it takes forty acres of ice one foot in thickness to furnish the 75,000 tons required to fill the ice-house of the Company. In the harvesting of ice, the electricity furnished by the harnessing of the Bantam Falls does the work of great bodies of men.

The village of Bantam has been incorporated as a Borough since 1915. The incorporation was due to the energies of W. S. Rogers, when he was a member of the state legislature, and it has resulted in furnishing the village with many advantages, such as sidewalks, sewers, fire protection, and the like. Mr. Rogers has been in many respects the presiding genius of Bantam. The prosperity enjoyed by the Bantam Ball Bearing Co., has been translated by him into terms of civic improvement which have benefited the whole community. About five years ago, he purchased the present Borough Hall from the old Bantam Village Improvement Society, and made it a gift to the borough. It is largely used for borough uses and for social entertainments. During the war it furnished indoor drilling space for the Bantam platoon of the Litchfield Home Guard.

Other gifts of Mr. Rogers have been made in connection with his factory and the welfare of his employees, which has always been a prime consideration with him and his assistant, Miss Nellie M. Scott.

The recreation theatre and club-room in the new building of the factory is also used for certain entertainments of the churches, and for moving picture plays for the school-children, and for other popular purposes. An Athletic Field is also one of the assets of Bantam, through this company, with its baseball teams, a gun-club, and similar organizations.

Besides its extensive manufacturing growth, Bantam is also gaining in prestige through its nearness to the Lake. While the summer resort region of the Lake, with its several Hotels, numerous boarding houses, boys' and girls' camps, and many private camps, is over the border in the town of Morris, the railway connection for the district is principally through Bantam, which also furnishes extended shopping facilities.

Originally, Bantam Falls and Bradleyville were divided like the rest of the town into several school districts, each with its separate school building. In 1893 the new central school in Bantam was opened, replacing the several scattered older little buildings by a large and commodious edifice, which for some years Bernard M. Roberg, Miss Josephine Mitchell, and Miss Baker have made one of the most successful and popular schools in the town. The old Bradleyville schoolhouse has now been converted into a hen house by Teed Loveland.

Bantam's churches have been of the Episcopal, Methodist and Baptist denominations. It is significant that there has been no Congregational church, so that the village was not set off as a separate parish, as were Milton, Northfield, and South Farms. This undoubtedly contributed to retard the growth of the settlement, from the subordinate position so long occupied by the other denominations.

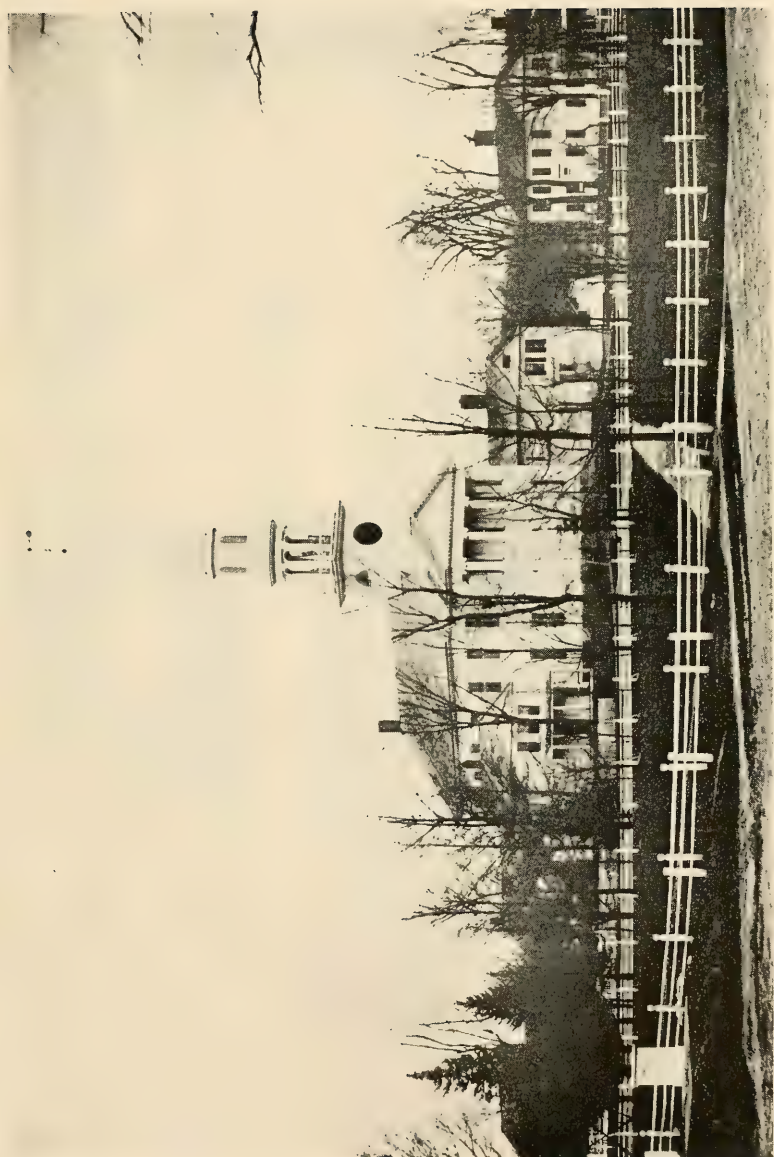
St. Paul's Episcopal church, as is told elsewhere, was born of a temporary division in the First Episcopal Society. It was located opposite the Bantam Burying Ground, and completed in 1797. It was a building 50 by 36 feet, with a steeple, deep galleries, and an old fashioned high pulpit and sounding board, with all of the antique surroundings corresponding to the age of its erection. The new church, somewhat to the west, was built in 1843, and consecrated the following year. Additions have since been made to it, including a fine chancel with ornamental windows and a beautiful pipe organ. The pastor of St. Paul's shares the pulpit in Milton.

The Baptist church in Bantam is not at present in use for services. The Methodist church, however, which was built in 1901, is very active, with a membership of over one hundred. The church is a handsome one, free of debt, with an attractive home for its pastors, and with a record of earnest endeavor which is leading to continued growth.

It has seemed better to treat of the outlying villages of the town separately in this chapter, so as to indicate something of their individual characters, but their history is really inextricably inter-

woven in that of the whole township. Many details regarding each of these outlying districts will therefore be found elsewhere, in the general accounts of the industries of the town, of its churches, and of the parts played by the citizens in our wars. Many of the names of the heroes of each village appear only under the combined Honor Rolls of the whole township. Exact statistics for a subdivision are not available, and after all the separate villages still form, save for the loss of South Farms, one township. Litchfield claims as its sons Horace Bushnell, who was born in Bantam, and John Pierpont, who was born in South Farms, ahead of any other ministers born on its soil, excepting Henry Ward Beecher; and the future of the township, as well as its past, is dependent on a united growth, which will be brought closer by the gradual improvement in the roads between villages, and in the organizations, like the Farm Bureau, which unite the corresponding interests of the separate sections.





THE THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1827-29







THE FOURTH (PRESENT) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1873



## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE CHURCHES.

#### THE THIRD AND FOURTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

In 1827 the First Ecclesiastical Society voted to erect a new church, on the site occupied by the present (fourth) Congregational Church. The church was completed in two years, and dedicated on the same day that the installation took place, July 15, 1829, of the new pastor, Rev. Laurens P. Hickok. A copy of Park Street Church of Boston, standing high above a flight of massive granite steps, with tall pillared porch, it was a well built, imposing edifice. It stood until the building of the fourth church in 1873; it was then moved to the Torrington Road, where for many years it was known as Armory Hall, while about six years ago it was bought by George Barber and the name changed to Colonial Hall. It is used as a public Hall for general purposes and more particularly for a Moving Picture Theatre.

The first pipe-organ of the Society was installed in August 1829. It was made by Jackson, in New York, and was sent by boat to New Haven, from whence it was brought in three great loads. It was the gift of Jabez W. Huntington, William H. Thompson, and Dr. Sheldon.

The Congregational Church has been fortunate in having a long series of devoted ministers, the names of a few of whom are especially connected with Litchfield. Admirable biographies of them are to be found in a scrap book of the Church compiled by Miss Anna W. Richards, and preserved in the collections of the Litchfield Historical Society.

Miss Richards' father, Rev. George Richards, was the pastor of the church from 1860 to 1865, during the troubled days of the Civil War. He assisted largely in moulding the loyal public opinion of Litchfield, and stood steadfast and strong in maintenance of our endangered institutions.

Rev. Allan McLean, who was minister from 1875 to his death in 1882, is remembered as a man of high literary gifts as well as of a sympathetic and kindly nature. On October 1, 1876, he delivered an address on the History of the Litchfield church, which remains a valuable source of information about the early years of the parish.

His successor, Rev. Charles Symington, was the pastor from 1883 to 1894. Like the Rev. Allan McLean, he died before he was

forty five years of age, while in the full vigor of his ministry, much lamented by his parishioners and fellow-townpeople.

The Rev. John Hutchins, who succeeded him, was his brother-in-law; he was a deep student and his researches had a wide range, covering the fields of astronomy and natural history. His love of flowers and birds, and his knowledge of them, was very extensive, and his influence was especially helpful in stimulating additions to the scientific collections now owned by the Historical Society. He died on February 20, 1915.

The modern Gothic church now used by the Society was built in 1873, and the Chapel in the same year. The prayer, at the dedication services, was offered by Rev. Laurens P. Hickok, who had dedicated the previous church in 1829, forty four years before.

#### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The following account of the early days of the Episcopal Church in Litchfield is from Kilbourne's History, pp. 177-182:

"In 1735, John Davies, of Kinton, Hertfordshire, England, purchased a tract of land in the south-west corner of the township, and not long after took up his abode in that wild and unfrequented region. He was warmly attached to the doctrines and forms of the Church of England, and was for some time the only Episcopalian in Litchfield. The unpopularity of Mr. Collins, of the Congregational Society, at length induced several of the leading members of his congregation to withdraw themselves from his ministry and to look elsewhere for religious instruction. On November 5, 1745, a meeting was called at the house of Captain Jacob Griswold at which the First Episcopal Society of Litchfield was organized. The first service after the English ritual was performed in this town by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson, President of King's (now Columbia) College in the city of New York. At an adjourned Town-meeting, held February 16, 1747, it was voted, that 'those who declared themselves members of the Church of England last year, shall be discharged from paying two-thirds of the Rate that was made for them to pay the last year'. This was one short step towards Toleration. In that year John Davies deeded to the Episcopal Society in Litchfield a tract of land situated about one mile west of the present Court House, containing 52 acres. This deed was in the form of a lease, for the term of 999 years, for the use of the 'Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts', for which there was to be paid 'one pepper-corn annually, at or upon the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, if lawfully demanded'. . . . The first church edifice of the Parish was raised upon this tract, April 23, 1749. It was covered; seats, pulpit, reading desk and chancel were made; and it was used in this condition for about twenty years before it was *finished*. It was named St. Michael's, by request of Mr. Davies". This church stood on the south side of the Bantam Road, about a mile from the center, at the top of the hill beyond the little Hatters' Brook. From

the notes published with the Centennial Sermon of the Rev. Isaac Jones, November 5, 1845, it would appear that the original gift of Mr. Davies included about fifty acres, that Daniel Landon gave a second tract of fifty acres adjoining, and that Mr. Davies bought two acres more, so as to give the Society access to the Brook. Kilbourne says the gift of Daniel Landon was 50 acres "lying westward of the Great Pond, near a mountain called Little Mount Tom". However this may be, when the church was given up for the one built on South Street in 1810, all the outlying land of the church was sold and the proceeds invested for the benefit of the Society.

"In 1749, John Davies, Jr., the only surviving son of the first benefactor of the parish, came over from Hertfordshire, with a wife and several young children, and settled near his father, south-west of Mount Tom, at a place still known as Davies Hollow. As he was a gentleman of good estate and an ardent churchman, his arrival was regarded as an important accession to the Episcopal Society. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Powell, was very reluctant to leave her native land. That she should have regarded her new home in the wilderness as cheerless and lonely, compared with the scenes she had left, is not to be wondered at. In writing home to her English friends, she is said to have described herself as 'entirely alone, having no society, and nothing to associate with but Presbyterians and Wolves'. The reader may be interested in the fact, that though the wolves long since disappeared from Davies Hollow, some of her own descendants are now numbered among the sect of Christians which she seems to have regarded with such abhorrence.

"From the organization of the society in 1745, to 1754, they were without a settled minister. The Rev. Drs. Mansfield, Johnson, Cutler and Beach, occasionally officiated here; and in the absence of a clergyman, prayers were sometimes read by Mssrs. Davies, Landon and Cole. The first rector of St. Michael was the Rev. Solomon Palmer, who had been pastor of the Congregational Church in Cornwall from 1741 to 1754. In March of the preceding year, to the great surprise and grief of his people, he on the Sabbath publicly announced himself an Episcopalian in sentiment. He soon after sailed for England, where he was ordained Deacon and Priest; and returned to this country during the same year, 1754, bearing a commission from the Venerable Society as missionary for Litchfield, Cornwall and Great Barrington".

Owing to the disfavor with which the Church of England was looked upon during the Revolution, St. Michael's was closed for three years, and re-opened in 1780. The Rev. James Nichols was the rector at the time, and resumed his duties when the church was re-opened. The Society from that time gradually increased in numbers and in public favor. On the 26th of October, 1784, it was incorporated by an Act of the General Assembly, and thereupon it was duly organized according to law.

The Rev. James Nichols was the last man who went from Connecticut to England to secure ordination, and his successor, Rev. Ashbel Baldwin, a native of Litchfield, was the first man to be ordained in the United States, upon the return of Bishop Seabury, who had gone to Scotland to be consecrated. The ordination was held at Middletown, August 3, 1785.

In 1796, a large number of Episcopalians residing in the western part of the town seceded and formed the Second Episcopal Society. In 1803, the two Societies were amicably re-united, and so continue at the present time. During this interval of disunion the Second Society built itself a church opposite the Cemetery in Bantam, which became known as the Old West Church and was occupied for worship until 1843; when a new edifice was built a short distance farther west. The new church was called St. Paul's.

The churches of St. Michael in Litchfield, St. Paul's in Bantam, and Trinity in Milton, all form part of the First Episcopal Society; while Trinity Church in Northfield belongs to a separate society.

In 1810 there was still no Episcopal Church within the present limits of our Borough. This served to help in retarding the growth of the congregation, and in that year it was decided to give up the original church and to build on the site now in use. This second St. Michael's church was retained until 1851; when the third church was built on the same site. A fourth church, in stone, is in course of erection at the time of writing, 1920, a gift to St. Michael's Parish from Henry R. Towne, in memory of his wife, Mrs. Cora White Towne.

The history of the Litchfield parish during the nineteenth century was uneventful. One of the rectors, Rev. H. N. Hudson, who was in charge from 1858 to 1860, is remembered for his Shakespeare studies, his edition of the Plays having remained the standard American edition for many years. Part of his great work was carried out while he was resident here.

On April 11, 1894, in a great storm, the steeple of the church was blown over. It was not replaced.

No mention of St. Michael's parish would be adequate which did not speak of the Rev. Storrs O. Seymour, who was the rector from 1879 to 1883, and again from 1893 to 1916, and Rector Emeritus until his death in 1918. Dr. Seymour, was born in Litchfield in 1836, the son of Judge Origen Storrs Seymour. He was educated at Andover, and graduated from Yale in 1857, and from the Berkeley Divinity School in 1861. During the years that he was absent from Litchfield he was successively rector of parishes in Milford and Bethel, Conn., Pawtucket, R. I., and Norwich and Hartford, Conn. He was a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Connecticut from 1876 until his death, and was the chairman of the Committee since 1896. He received the Honorary Degree of D. D. from Trinity College in 1897. He was also for many years a Trustee of Berkeley Divinity





THE THIRD (Present) ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1851







THE FALLEN STEEPLE AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, APRIL 11, 1894



School. The affection which Dr. Seymour inspired in everyone in Litchfield, in his church and outside of it, is a recent and tender memory.

#### THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Of the beginnings of Methodism in Litchfield, Kilbourne tells us the following, pp. 183-184: "In June, 1790, the Rev. Freeborn Garretson, one of the ablest and most earnest Apostles of Methodism in America, visited Litchfield on his way from the Hudson river to Boston. He was at that time Superintendent of the Northern District, and, in his itinerant journeyings, was almost invariably attended by his colored servant, Harry, who was himself a licensed preacher of no mean distinction. They traveled together on horseback apparently vieing with each other in their zeal for the promotion of the cause of their common Master. On Wednesday, June 23, (as we learn from Dr. Stevens' Memorials of Methodism), Mr. Garretson "rode seven miles to Litchfield, and was surprised to find the doors of the Episcopal church open, and a large congregation waiting for him. He discoursed from the words: 'Enoch walked with God', and believed good was done. He left Harry to preach another sermon, and went on to the centre of the town; the bell rang, and he preached to a few in the Presbyterian meeting-house, and lodged with a kind churchman". On the same day, Mr. Garretson wrote in his diary: "I preached in the skirts of the town, where I was opposed by —, who made a great disturbance. I told him the enemy had sent him to pick up the good seed, turned my back on him, and went my way, accompanied by brothers W. and H. I found another waiting company, in another part of the town, to whom I declared: 'Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish'. In this town we have given the devil and the wicked much trouble; we have a few good friends". On his return from Boston, Mr. Garretson again preached in Litchfield, Friday, July 13, 1790".

The Rev. Geo. C. Boswell adds, Book of Days, p. 99: "It is pleasant to remember that the Episcopal and Congregational churches in Litchfield were open to the early itinerant. His colaborers in other parts of the State did not generally fare so well".

Kilbourne, continuing, says: "The Litchfield Circuit was organized during the spring of 1790, and embraced the north-western section of Connecticut. . . . On July 21, 1791, the famous Bishop Asbury preached in the Episcopal church in this town. In reference to his visit here, he wrote: 'I think Morse's account of his countrymen is near the truth; never have I seen any people who could talk so long, so correctly and so seriously about trifles. . . .'

"In 1837, a handsome church edifice was erected by the Methodists, in Meadow Street, which was dedicated on July 27 of that year. The dedication sermon was preached by Professor Holdich, of the Wesleyan University; and an appropriate discourse was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Washburn.

"The late Rev. Horace Agard and the Rev. Joseph L. Morse are, so far as I can learn, the only natives of the town who have become Methodist ministers".

In 1885 the present Methodist church on West Street was built to accomodate the increasing congregation, and the old church was converted into the Masonic Hall of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 11, F. and A. M.

In addition to the church in the center, there have been three other Methodist churches in the town, one at Milton and one near Mount Tom, but the use of these two is at the present time discontinued. The third is the Methodist church in Bantam, an account of which is given elsewhere.

#### THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

There is at the present moment no Baptist church in active use within the township. The Clergy of Litchfield County tells of very early churches in Northfield and in Footville, the westerly part of South Farms; but both of these have disappeared long ago. Their only successor still standing is the building of the Baptist church in Bantam. The Baptist Society of Bantam Falls was formed on January 18, 1853, with ten charter members. This society was merged, January 4, 1891, into the Baptist Society of Bantam, Conn., which continued to hold services until about 1903. In 1908, a new and very unusual opportunity came to this church. The opening of a saloon was contemplated opposite the factory of the Bantam Anti-Friction Co., now the Ball Bearing Co. Relying on the law that no saloon can be opened within a given distance of a church, W. S. Rogers, with characteristic energy, offered to bring the Baptist church up from its location near the falls to a position on South Street, near the factory. On June 19, 1908, a committee was appointed by the church to make arrangements with Mr. Rogers, and soon after the little building began its march up the hill into its new field of action. It was nearly two weeks upon the road, and appropriately rested on the two Sundays of its journey in turn opposite to the Methodist church, which had developed through the separation of a group of members from the Baptist Society itself, and then opposite to the Episcopal church of St. Paul. On its new site and under a new environment, it renewed its activities, with new members, new financial support and a new social order of affairs. In May, 1909, Ray H. Legate was called to the pulpit, and services were conducted under several pastors until 1915, when the services were discontinued. During the European War, the building was turned over to the Bantam branch of the Litchfield Chapter, American Red Cross, where yeoman service was performed by the ladies of Bantam.

#### THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

"The first Catholics to come within the confines of Litchfield were three Acadians, the victims of English oppression. Sybil Shear-

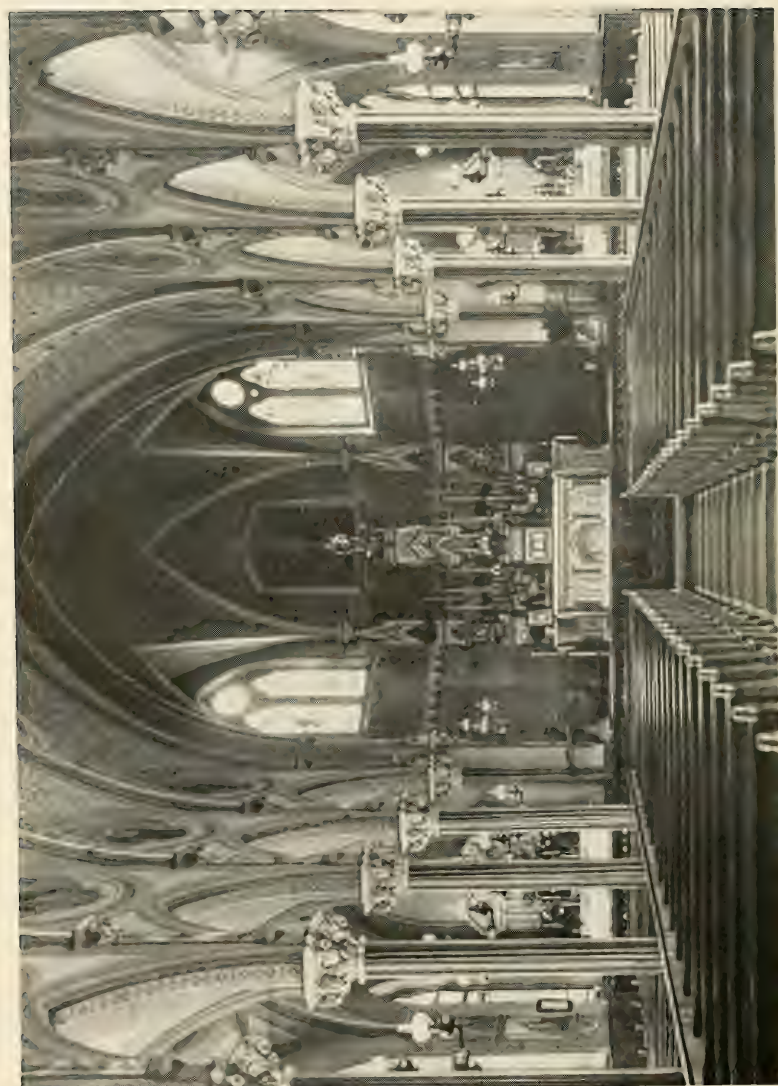


The Second (Present) Methodist Church, 1885









INTERIOR, THE SECOND (PRESENT) ST. ANTHONY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1888

away, one of them, married Thomas Harrison in 1764 and their descendants are still residents of Litchfield". (Rev. J. H. O'Donnell, *History of the Diocese of Hartford*, 1900, p. 293).

"It is not until January 1759", (Kilbourne, p. 77), "that our town records make any allusion to these people. At this date it was 'voted that the Selectmen may provide a house or some suitable place in the town, for the maintenance of the French'. In the County Treasurer's book, also, occurs the following entry, 'To paid John Newbree for keeping William Dunlap and the *French persons*, 54s. 6d. which the County allowed, and R. Sherman, Justice of the Quorum, drew an order dated April 25, 1760, as per order on file'".

"From this time on we find no trace of Catholicity in Litchfield until the period when Irish emigration was at its height. Irish people settled here in the rural districts and devoted themselves to the pursuits of agricultural life. ...

"The first priest to visit Litchfield was the Rev. John Smith, of Albany, who made a missionary tour through this section of the State in 1848 on horseback, seeking out and ministering to the Catholics whom he might find here. On one of these tours he tarried at Litchfield and said Mass, but where, has passed from remembrance. Bishop O'Reilly visited Litchfield on February 25, 1851, as his journal informs us. ...

"The second Mass was said in the house occupied at the time by John Ryan, on the west side of North Lake Street. This historic Mass was said by Rev. Philip Gillick in 1853, in the presence of twenty persons. At this time, or at least in the same year, was solemnized the first Catholic marriage in Litchfield, Father Gillick officiating". (Diocese of Hartford, p. 293).

A convert to the Catholic faith, born in Litchfield, Miss Julia Beers, purchased a small building, in 1858, which now forms part of the pastoral residence. The present dining room of the house, she arranged with altar and seats, and here Mass was said at frequent intervals until 1861, when increasing numbers made removal to the Court House necessary. In 1868, the first church was completed. During these years and until 1882 the pastors of Winsted served the people of Litchfield. On September 8, 1882, Litchfield was made an independent Parish, with the Rev. M. Byrne the first resident pastor. During the administration of Rev. Timothy M. Sweeney, the present Church was built, at a cost of \$23,000.

As auxiliaries to the pastors of St. Anthony's parish, Miss Beers and another convert, Miss Emma Deming, labored zealously to promote the welfare of the Church and its congregation. Miss Beers, in the last years of her life, lived in Rome, where she is buried.

#### CEMETERIES.

The work of Charles T. Payne, *Litchfield and Morris Inscriptions*, 1905, was published at the suggestion and with the support of Dwight C. Kilbourne. It gives a complete and admirable state-

ment of all the Cemeteries and private Burying Grounds in the original limits of the township, together with transcripts of all the inscriptions down to 1900, which were legible when the collection was made. Particulars regarding the several Cemeteries in South Farms, Northfield, Milton, and Bantam are given elsewhere from this same source. We will quote here the notes of Mr. Payne on our West and East Cemeteries, pp. 8, 54.

"The West Burying Ground is the earliest of the Burial places in Litchfield, and its establishment was nearly contemporaneous with the founding of the Town. The first notice of it appears in Vol. I of the Land Records, as follows:

"An acompt of the High Ways in Litchfield in 1723 ... the 2d high way Running East and West between Samuel Smedly his home Lott and the Widow allen's home Lott of twenty eight Rods in bredth Sixty Rods West and then is twelue Rods Wide down to the swamp and then is laid out but six rods Wide thorou the swamp Which highway runs on the West side of the letle plain buting north upon Land Laid out to John Gay to make up the fifteen acres for his home Lott and so continuel a West Line until it comes to the swamp or flooded Lands and all the Land upon the letele playn South of said highway to the swamp or flooded land which is not yet Laid out is Resarued and Laid out for a burying place. Which highway at the West End of the litle plain or burying place runs six Rods Wide throro the swamp and across the hill called buck's Neak With the same corce and bredth until it comes to the pine plain Which high Way is Called by name of Middiel Street'.

"Here were interred nearly all of the pioneers of Litchfield and the yard remained the principal burying ground of the Town until the Revolution.

"Early in the Nineteenth Century a large tract was added on the Western side". The Roman Catholic Cemetery adjoins this upon the West.

"The East Burying Ground has become the largest of the cemeteries in the township, although it was the third one to be established, and was at first, as is noted below, a part of the highway set apart for the purpose. It lies half a mile east of the court-house. The following record in the first town book is of interest:

"September 26, 1754 ... At the same Meeting Messrs. Samuel Culyer Joshua Garritt & Edward Phelps were chosen committee to lay out a Burying Place in the East Side of the Town where & how much they shall think proper'.

"The laying out of this ground is recorded in the land records under date of January 12, 1755. ...

"In 1837 the yard was enlarged upon its western side by an addition of sixteen rods. The next year further extension was made on the northern side, and the town voted a part of the highway for the same purpose. The stone wall in front of the ground on East Street was built about 1850 by subscription.



"Within fifteen years a corporation known as the Litchfield Cemetery Association has purchased a tract of land between the ancient yard and Torrington Road and has laid it out with much care. Many fine monuments have been erected upon the new ground.

"In the southeast corner of the old burying yard lie a great number of Revolutionary soldiers who died during the war, and were buried here without any distinguishing marks".

## CHAPTER XX.

### THE OLD ORDER CHANGES.

Frederick Wolcott died at Litchfield on Sunday morning, May 28, 1837. The funeral Sermon was preached by the pastor of the Congregational Church, Rev. Jonathan Brace, who said in closing: " . . . He is gone, *and he is the last of his order*. Reeve has been carried out before him. . . ."

And in the Personal Memories of E. D. Mansfield, p. 125, after reading of the Wolcotts, Tallmadges, Seymours, Buels, Tracy, and others, we come on this passage: "All this is gone, and nothing can illustrate the evanescent state of our society more than the changes which it has undergone in many of the old places in the old states. However excellent or able may be the people who live in Litchfield now, there is no such social glory, no such marked superiority there, as that which distinguished the noted people of Litchfield in the generation just passing away, when I came upon the stage. The change in people, manners, and conditions is quite as great as the change in the dress of gentlemen. When I was a law student, 1823, a few old gentlemen still retained the dress of the Revolution. It was a powdered queue, white-topped boots, silk stockings, and breeches with buckles. I can remember to have seen David Daggett, chief justice, and a half dozen others, walking in the streets with this dignified dress. It is in vain to say that the present dress is at all equal to it, in what ought to be one of the objects of good dress, to give an idea of dignity and respect. The man who is now inside of a plain black dress, with unpretending boots, may be as good a man, as able a man, as he in white-topped boots and breeches, but he is not respected as much, for he no longer assumes as much. He has become only one of a multitude instead of being one above a multitude".

Certainly great changes have come upon Litchfield; we have only to compare the wilderness of 1720, with a few settlers dwelling in their log huts, without flour to bake bread, without even an apple or adequate seeds to raise vegetables; with the social, educational, commercial center of 1820, when the chief magistrate of the State lived in Litchfield, and the teachings of Lyman Beecher were to be heard twice every Sunday. Or again we have only to compare this Litchfield of 1820 with the summer resort of 1920, when we no longer give out an influence important far beyond the County, but instead receive and welcome those from outside our borders, and give them a measure of recreation and health, to do which we seem particularly adapted.

Such changes as these are very hard for us to realize. Barely two lifetimes, as lifetimes are counted in Litchfield, have passed in the course of these changes. Reuben Dickinson, a resident of Milton, was born in Massachusetts in the year 1716, four years before the settlement of Litchfield; he died in Milton on November 5, 1818, at the age of 102 years. His great-grand-nephew, Edwin Perry Dickinson was born in Milton on January 4, 1821, and is now living there, in good health, in his one-hundredth year.

As we look back, it is not possible to say, this period ends here, or that period begins there. But we make such generalizations, knowing them to be inaccurate, so as to have some measure, even if the measure be inexact, of the transitions our town has passed through. As a matter of fact, the transition is constant. Our town has never stood still. Each year definite links with the past are broken, and new links with the future are being made. We do not know what the future is to be, so we do not recognize the importance of the new links; and we never have the true perspective of the immediate past, so we do not notice the parting links. It is only at the death of a man, whose life has been noteworthy, as was that of Frederick Wolcott, or after a radical change, such as Mansfield noted, has become a completed fact, that we speak of the old order changing. That is the shortcoming of history, and if we speak of the year 1840 marking an important point in the story of our town, we do so only because it is the end of a decade, and a time somewhere near which certain influences, already long since waning, seem to have entirely ceased, and others, already apparent, first become dominating.

Of the passing influences, one was that of the men who had been young and active in the days of the Revolution, men built in a large mould, as it seems to us, or rather developed to a great pitch of efficiency and public responsibility by the necessities of their young manhood. On June 1, 1833, Oliver Wolcott Jr. died; on March 7, 1835, Benjamin Tallmadge died; on May 28, 1837, Frederick Wolcott died; on January 23, 1838, Julius Deming died; on May 11, 1838, James Gould died. The old institutions of Litchfield also changed in this period: the Law School was closed in 1833; on October 31 of the same year, Miss Gimbred became the principal of the Litchfield Academy in the stead of Miss Sarah Pierce. Tapping Reeve, Moses Seymour, Uriah Tracy had died at dates much earlier. Lyman Beecher had been called to a larger field in Boston in 1826.

But the change was not alone in the passing of a few men. The whole population of Litchfield was involved. As we have not yet referred to the numerical population of the township, a few figures may be in order here.

In 1756, the inhabitants of Litchfield township, including South Farms, numbered 1,366. The population of the state was 130,612.

Litchfield was the 35th town in population in the state, and included about 1 per cent. of the total number of inhabitants.

The growth was rapid. In 1774, we had 2,544 inhabitants; in 1782, 3,077; in 1800, 4,285. Litchfield was then the 10th town in the state. In 1810, the population was 4,639; about 2 per cent of the total for the state; and the town was the fourth in point of population in the whole state. Only New Haven, Hartford and Middletown were larger; but the remarkable thing is that New Haven, the largest of all, was only half as large again as Litchfield, its population being 6,967.

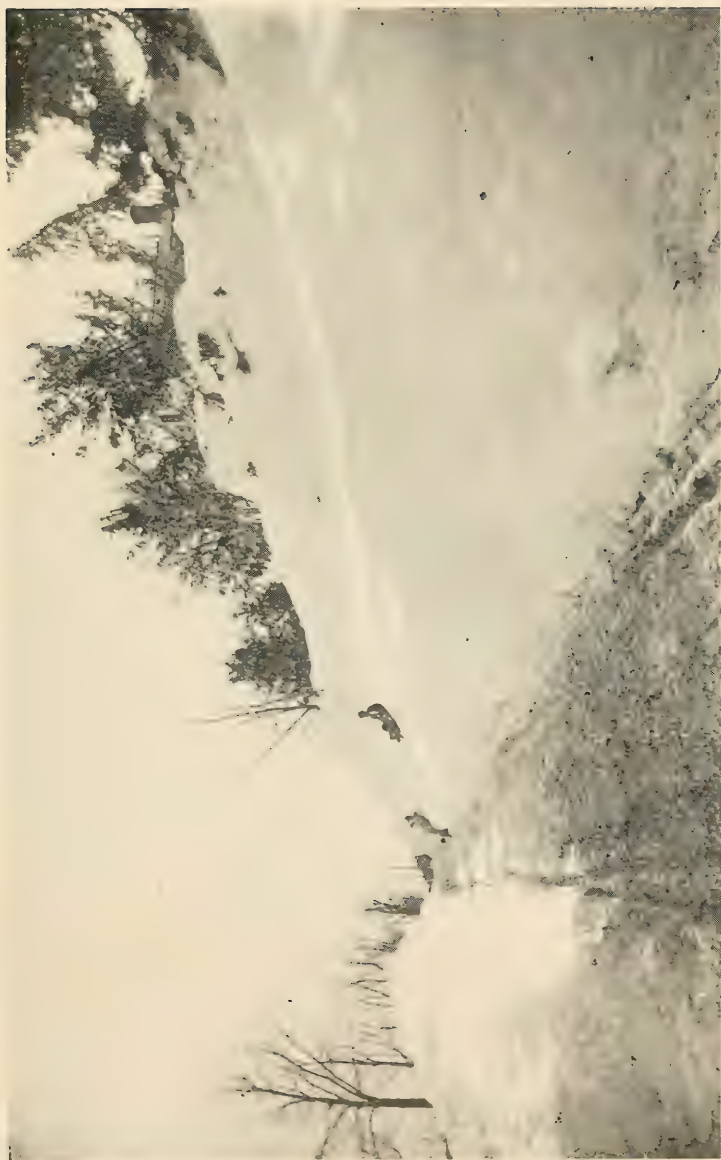
Then came the turn in the tide. In 1820, the population had declined just a little to 4,610; but we had lost fourth place to Groton. In 1830, Norwich and Saybrook passed us, and we were seventh, with 4,456. In 1840, Bridgeport, Danbury and New London passed us, leaving us the 10th town, with 4,038. In 1850, the decline had reached 3,953. In 1860, owing to the separation of South Farms, we fell to the 39th place in the state, with only 3,200 inhabitants. Since then the population has not greatly changed, though it reached the lowest figure of all at the last census: 1870, pop. 3,113; 1880, pop. 3,410; 1890, pop. 3,304; 1900, pop. 3,214; 1910, pop. 3,005. At this last date we had fallen to the 64th township in the state, with only one-quarter percent. out of a total population for the state of 1,114,756. In other words, in just a century, we have fallen from fourth to 64th place, and our population relative to that of the state has fallen from two per cent. to one-quarter per cent. It should be added that there are in the state 168 townships altogether.

It is possible that the low water mark of 1910 will be found later to be the change in the tide. If so, it will be due solely to the growth of Bantam as a manufacturing center.

There is another great change to be noticed about our population. If we contrast the quaint statement of Morris, p. 95, "Only two European families have settled in Litchfield; they came from Ireland, and were respectable", with the constantly increasing foreign element at present, we shall get a real idea of the difference in the population. It is impossible to give any figures in this connection, because so many of our citizens of foreign birth have become Americanized, that no one can say who the foreigners now are. This is the happy solution of the immigration question, but it does not alter the fact that the people of the town are now in great part of other races than they were in 1820.

There is another change to be considered, at about this time, which may seem a singular one to the reader; and that is the importance of the weather. The weather of course has not changed, but the way we consider it has. Our winters are proverbially severe. Philip P. Hubbard, whose house is located at the foot of East Hill, near the river, where low temperatures are produced by the atmospheric conditions, sometimes two or three degrees lower





SNOWDRIFT AT DR. BUEL'S, BLIZZARD OF 1888







See in spirit. In Stone in Feb. 20, 1892



than on the Hill, has observed a mean low temperature of about fifteen degrees below zero for a considerable period of years; while the extreme in severe winters has been 27 below. The severity of the climate is not due to these intensely cold spells, because they usually occur with crisp, sunny weather, and an absence of wind. The most severe weather occurs when the temperature is slightly above the minimum, but when high gales are raging, not infrequently attaining 80 miles an hour, and sometimes even more. The exposed condition of the Hill affords little shelter from such gales, and when they are accompanied by drifting snow, or the destructive ravages of an ice storm, (see Plate 64), the experience is one to be remembered.

One of the earliest great storms we read about was that on Thanksgiving Day, 1779, when young John Cotton Smith, Governor of the State in 1814, was a visitor with his father at Tapping Reeve's house on his way from Sharon to New Haven, (Smith, *Colonial Days and Ways*, 1900, pp. 301-307): "We found the roads badly drifted long before we reached what is now Ellsworth. At that point we had to leave our sleigh, while we pursued our journey on horseback. In those days no one travelled in any sort of a vehicle without taking along saddles for use in emergency. It was dark before we reached Litchfield and the snow-laden wind was piercingly cold. ... During the night the storm increased in violence and in the morning it was impossible to see many feet from the door on account of the whirling masses of a snow so hard, dry and powdery that it cut into the face like fine iron filings. ... In traversing the short distance from the house to the barn to attend to the wants of our animals, over a path hardly more than twenty yards long and partly sheltered by the wood-shed, we were almost blinded and bewildered. ... On Wednesday the sun rose bright and clear over a dazzling desert of snow. The lower windows of most of the houses were hidden beneath great piles of drift. In some cases even the second story windows were hidden, or only visible through openings in the drift like the hooded bastions of some icy fort. ... Fences and shrubs were obliterated. Trees, some looking like mountains of snow and some like naked and broken skeletons, arose here and there. And in the village only rising wreaths of smoke told that life existed in the half buried houses. The Meeting House spire was on one side decked by the icy snow with fantastic semblances of marble statuary over which the new long, black lightning rod had been twisted by the wind until it looked like a Chinese character. ... By nine o'clock we climbed out of an upper story window upon the hard crust of frozen snow and started off with no other burden than the light, but cumbersome snow shoes attached to our feet, and a small roll fastened to each of our backs".

A still earlier storm is told about, without the date, during which Timothy Collins' wife, who became a physician like her husband, when the latter left the church, was called to Goshen.

No other means of conveyance being possible, she was drawn all the way thither on a hand sled by two men, relatives of the patient. No effort was made to keep the roads open, even in the Center. As late as the Revolution, occurs this vote, at a Town Meeting April 10, 1780: "The question being proposed whether the Selectmen shall allow pay for making Snow Paths or Highway in the Winter? Voted in the Negative".

Our storms often begin early in the winter and are met again late in the spring. Noah Webster, in his *Diary*, p. 561, speaks of a considerable fall of snow, May 8, 1803, adding, "In Litchfield the ice was half an inch thick; but the trees not forward enough to suffer any injury".

On March 22, 1837, there began a two days' ice storm which is said to have done damage in the town to timber and orchards to the extent of \$100,000. During the winter of 1872-1873, William Norton came to church on runners for twenty consecutive Sundays, a good record for the snow and for Mr. Norton too. (*Book of Days*, p. 57). The most destructive ice-storm was on February 19-20, 1898, when every tree in the town is said to have suffered. Many were snapped off ten or fifteen feet from the ground. Millions of icicles hung from the electric wires, which sagged in great loops and finally broke. The very blades of grass stood up stalagmites of ice. (*Book of Days*, p. 37). A year later, another great storm swept over the country, February 13, 1899: "After a week of bitterly cold weather, when the mercury at its highest was only a few degrees above zero, and at its lowest threatened to disappear altogether, the blinding snow of a great storm filled the air. Drifts ten feet high were common enough; in some cases, the snow reached to second-story windows. From Monday noon till Wednesday night, Litchfield was under the snow blockade". (*Book of Days*, p. 33).

The winters of Litchfield are not all like this. The great storms are the exception. Many weeks are clear, bright, with a crisp snow that invites one out, or with the wonderful black ice on the Great Pond, which makes such memorable skating for the enthusiasts. Our rollicking diarist, George Younglove Cutler, gives a delightful account of a real winter night out-of-doors, (*Vanderpoel*, pp. 204-205): "November 28, 1820. Went to Waterbury & tomorrow morning before daylight, shall be obliged to be off in the cold—thro' the snow on horseback to Litchfield—all for this vexatious law—cursed be the day when I first turned my face towards the fields of litigation.

"November 29. It was no killing thing either. Much worse would it be to hang. For the moon was bright, the snow full of reflection, I full of breakfast, & Nate full of fire. While the cocks of the country crowed about us for musick & the stars shot this way and that about the heavens, as if making a display of fireworks for our amusement. All was silent. As we rose the hills

& look back upon the far distance which ran down the valley to the south east, the two extremes of the splendor of the united powers of snow and moonbeams & the contrasted darkness of the deep ravines into which light would not penetrate, filled the whole view”.

To return, now, to the argument that the winters of Litchfield have assumed an importance different from that they played a century ago, we should note that people are no longer content to travel considerable distances on horseback, or on snowshoes, or to be pulled for miles on hand-sleds. If our motors cannot go through we are greatly distressed. Even in the day of carriages and sleighs, the winters' drifts of Litchfield were dreaded. Gradually the winters have contributed more than would at first seem credible to the change of life in many of our residents. The call to the cities has been, in a small measure at least, accelerated, by the desire to avoid the cold and the discomfort. The same is apparent in our summer residents, who, even if they be persons of complete leisure and robust health, would rarely think of spending a winter here. Notice the closed houses of North Street and South Street on a morning of mid-winter. By actual count, more than half are closed, the larger percentage being on North Street. On Prospect Street, every house will be found desolate. The same holds in the outlying districts, where the large and small countryplaces are growing up, as distinguished from the old farms.

But the great call to the cities was due to the growth of manufacturing towns in the State. It is strange to-day to think of Litchfield, not being passed by Bridgeport and Danbury until 1840. But once passed, what a rush there has been! How the little manufactures have left our hill towns and clustered in the valleys!

In still another respect, and one certainly not anticipated at the time, Litchfield was destined to drop behind. This was as a center of traffic. When the rail-roads came, they were hailed as a great innovation, a great developer of traffic and of trade. But the railroads have left Litchfield high and dry, as they have many another hill town. We lost in a few years all the through stage traffic between Boston and Hartford and New York, between New Haven and Albany; and all that came in its stead was the long ride to New Milford, or later to East Litchfield, or later still the restless tossing of the Shepaug, with its solitary passengers, fast asleep, when the good old engine pulls its way at length into the terminus at the foot of Litchfield Hill.

On February 11, 1840, the very year we have taken to mark the changed conditions, the Housatonic Railroad was opened as far as New Milford. With the building of this road, the New York and Albany stage, which used to roll through our streets at unearthly hours in the morning, is heard no more. (Book of Days, p. 33). In 1849, the first passenger train to Winsted over the Naugatuck Railroad went through on September 22. Our own



Shepaug Valley Railroad was not opened until January 1, 1872. This was constructed largely as a result of the energetic public spirit of Edwin McNeill. He had been a successful railroad builder elsewhere and returned to his former home in Litchfield in 1863. He first tried to have a road put through from Waterbury to the north, not far from the center, by the Boston and Erie Railroad. He saw clearly that what Litchfield needed was a through road, which would connect it with various parts by a service of adequate speed. He was unsuccessful in this, and finally determined to get a branch road from Bethel and Hawleyville to Litchfield. The story of the construction of the road is an unfortunate one throughout. A great deal of money was sunk in the line, and the traffic, being purely local, has never resulted in any success of operation. It has been a great convenience to Litchfield and to all the towns along the line; but it has never developed the trade or the extensive passenger traffic which a through line would have done. To-day it is much shorter to go to many points of the state by motor, for instance to Hartford, than by train. Many men in Litchfield supported Mr. McNeill, with money and influence; all cannot be named, but J. Deming Perkins and Henry R. Coit should be mentioned.

As these changes gradually came about, it is interesting to consider what new characteristics were developed. One of these is especially important, the growth of a historical spirit. Up to 1840, very little attention was paid to the history of the town. The only actual pamphlet on the subject was the often quoted Statistical Account of James Morris, and this, if we want to be very exact, was written in South Farms. In Litchfield, the life was so busy and so much was being accomplished by the citizens, many of them away for considerable periods, that the retrospective, or shall we call it the contemplative, spirit had little opportunity. There were some diaries kept, of course, and the town records, but very little historical material was accumulated. Then we find an extensive and sudden outburst of the historical spirit.

This was led by George C. Woodruff and Payne Kenyon Kilbourne, both of whom appear to have begun their researches into the history of the town about 1840. Kilbourne's early interest began through researches into the Revolutionary history; while Woodruff's was at first largely concerned with local genealogy; but both soon extended their interest to cover the whole field of Litchfield history.

George C. Woodruff was the son of Morris Woodruff and Candace Catlin, he was born December 1, 1805 and died November 21, 1885. Of him Charles B. Andrews said: "Erect in figure, and singularly robust; always of the firmest health; always at work and never seemingly fatigued; nothing in nature so typified him as an oak which has withstood every vicissitude of storm for a century of time". (Address before the Litchfield Bar). He served

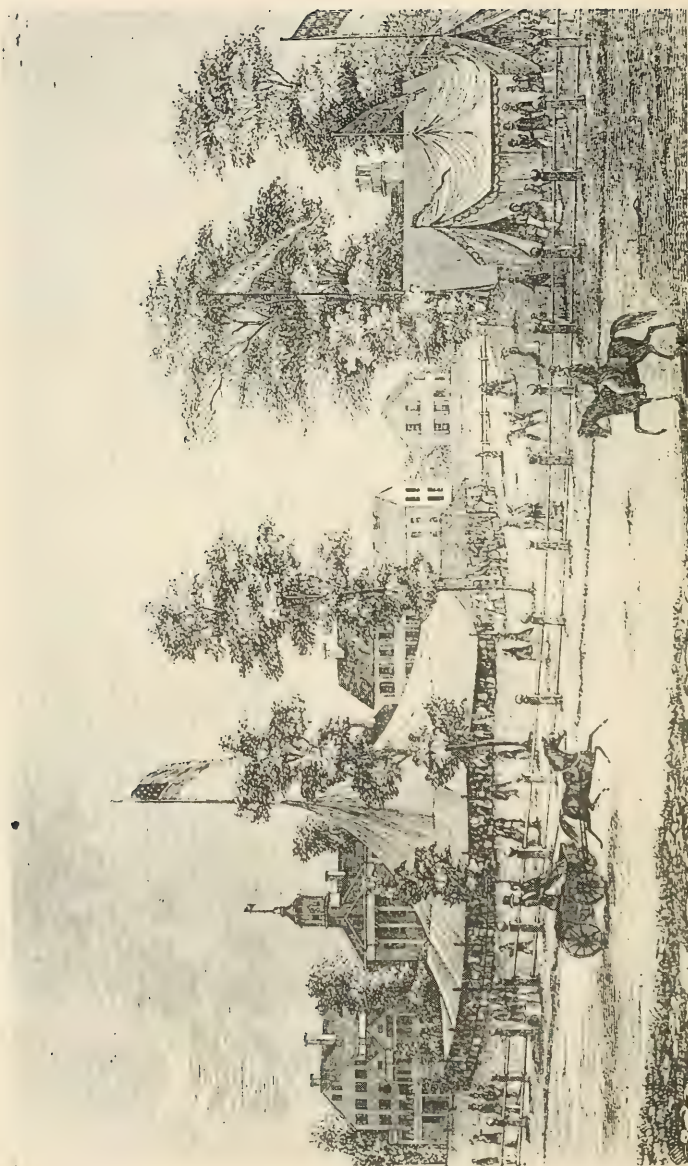




HON. GEORGE C. WOODRUFF







THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY, 1851



for several terms in the Legislature and represented this district in the 37th Congress in Washington. He did a great deal for the town through his constant public spirit; but he will be remembered perhaps chiefly on account of his extensive historical studies. Through these he affected everything that can at any future time be written about the town. He was astonishingly accurate in his researches, and the statements he has made, even in a minor way do not have to be verified, as do nearly all historical statements, even those of Kilbourne.

Payne Kenyon Kilbourne was ten years younger, having been born in 1815. From 1845 to 1853 he was editor of the *Enquirer*, and in 1859 he set up in type his own history. His historical interest was developed at an unusually early age. He had a very agreeable literary style, but he appears sometimes to have been hasty in his researches. The two men supplemented one another in an unusual degree, and between them covered the ground of Litchfield history, at least down to 1800, so thoroughly that little has been left for later investigation. Kilbourne liked the news value of his researches. He never misses an anecdote, and there are passages in his History which are not very relevant to Litchfield, but which make very good reading. He took his dates where he found them, without caring seriously if a minor slip did follow. George C. Woodruff, on the other hand, never passed a fact, which the best evidence obtainable did not corroborate. No trouble was too great if it led to increased accuracy.

Woodruff's History dates from 1845. The same year he compiled his manuscript Genealogical Register of the Inhabitants of Litchfield, from 1720 to 1800. Twenty years later, he went over the whole ground again, to check up his results.

It is hard for us, who have been brought to an interest in local history, to realize what the publication of Woodruff's book meant. It directed the thoughts of a large number of people to their own town, with a tide of results of which the present Bi-Centennial is only a minor phase. Before this time there had been no Centennials. 1820 came and went without a word about the founding of the town. Yet within a year of 1845, fruits were already appearing, in the Marsh-Buel picnic. The families of two of the leading founders of the Town, John Marsh and John Buel, were very numerous. As to the Buels it is enough to quote from the tomb-stone in the West Cemetery, on the grave of Mrs. John Buel: "She died Nov. 4, 1768, aged 90; having had 13 children, 101 grand-children, 247 great-grand-children, and 49 great-great-grand children; total 410. 336 survived her".

A story is told of the number and prominence of these two families in connection with the old grist-mill at the foot of East Hill. The miller used to call any stranger who came to the Mill, Mr. Marsh; if surprise was manifested he would correct himself and say Buel, and seldom made a mistake.

The reunion of the two families was held at the grove on the north east end of Bantam Lake, on September 3, 1846. A chart, showing the complete genealogies of the two families was prepared by George C. Woodruff, and a Historical address was read by Origen Storrs Seymour. The account of the day is given in the Litchfield Republican, September 10, 1846, while interesting reminiscences of it were given in the Enquirer for November 1, 1906, by the Rev. Storrs O. Seymour, D.D. A register of those present on the day was kept by Mr. Woodruff, which shows 581 names of descendants, and doubtless some others had to leave without being registered.

Of the Buel family, Capt. Salmon Buel may be mentioned here, as he lived to be over 100 years old. He celebrated his hundredth birthday on Sunday, June 9, 1867, by attending service at the Congregational Church, the large congregation rising as he entered, then uniting in singing the doxology to Old Hundred, after which was read the ninety-first Psalm.

In 1845, was held also the Centennial of St. Michael's Church, a historical Sermon being preached by Rev. Isaac Jones. This was printed in pamphlet form, with considerable other historical material relating to the early years of the church.

Payne Kenyon Kilbourne published his first historical work in 1851, a volume of Litchfield Biographies. These are concerned with the whole County, and only in part with our town; but they show his pleasant style and foreshadow his great work, the History of 1859.

In 1851, too, was held the County Centennial, which occupied two days, August 13 and 14. A volume of 212 pages was published after the celebration, which includes the speeches and a full account of the ceremonies. The most authoritative of the addresses was the Historical review of the century by Chief Justice Samuel Church, LL.D. He was a native of Salisbury, but became a resident of Litchfield in 1845 and remained here till his death in the autumn of 1854. His address was a valuable addition to the growing historical material of the neighborhood, especially as to the legal lights of the County.

Each of these events stimulated others; the next one being the Centennial of the North and South Consociations of the Congregational Church, which was held on July 7 and 8, 1852. Here again there was a historical address, delivered by the Rev. David L. Parmalee, pastor of Litchfield South Farms.

Four years later, in 1856, the movement culminated in the formation of the Litchfield County Historical and Antiquarian Society, which after a while became dormant and then in 1893 was revived and re-organized as our present Litchfield Historical Society. At the meeting of organization held in the Court House on April 9, 1856, the Introductory Address was delivered by Gideon H. Hollister, who was then living in Litchfield and had just published his valuable History of Connecticut. The first board of officers included Seth

P. Beers, President; George C. Woodruff, First Vice President; and Payne Kenyon Kilbourne, Secretary.

Seth P. Beers was a native of Woodbury, where he was born July 1, 1781. He was a graduate of the Law School. He held many public positions, including that of State's Attorney, and he served in four sessions of the State Legislature, of which he was consecutively Clerk and Speaker. His great service to the State, however, was as Commissioner of the School Fund, from 1824 to 1849. The School Fund was made up from the sale of the Western Reserve lands in Ohio, which then belonged to the State of Connecticut. Mr. Beers visited these lands, making the journey mainly by canal. He was a most successful administrator of these funds, which in his hands were increased from the original amount produced by the sale of the lands in 1793-95 of \$1,200,000. to \$2,049,482.32. He also increased the revenue of the fund from \$72,000. to \$133,000. in round numbers.

"He was a self-made man and, mindful of his own early struggles, aided and encouraged many young men here and elsewhere to a successful career. Professor Henry A. Beers of Yale is his grandson". (Book of Days, p. 111). Mr. Beers had the interests of Litchfield always at heart, and at his death left a legacy to the Episcopal Churches of Litchfield, Bantam and Milton of \$35,000.

The publication of Kilbourne's History in 1859 marks the climax of this Historical period. It summarized all that had gone before, and gave final form to what then seemed the completed story of Litchfield. After the writing of this book, there was nothing left for others to do but to quote from it. The gathering clouds of Civil dissension also led men's thoughts away from new researches. A great amount has been published in the last sixty years about Litchfield, but it is surprising how much goes back direct to Kilbourne. Since the formation of the new Historical Society in 1893, however, a new direction has been given to local research, and the many able papers read before the Society from time to time have testified how fruitful the field still is.

After 1859 and before the War, there was celebrated one more anniversary in Litchfield, the Semi-Centennial of the Litchfield County Foreign Mission Society, 1861. In the years between the end of the War and the formation of the Historical Society, the chief event of this character was the celebration, on July 4, 1876, of the Centennial of American Independence, on which occasion George C. Woodruff delivered an admirable review of the period, concerned chiefly with the share our town had taken in the Revolution. It was very appropriate that Mr. Woodruff should end, as he had begun, this first period of the historical study of the town. The second period includes all the work of the members of the Historical Society, and is still far from complete. It embraces also valuable work done by members of other organizations, notably the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter, D. A. R., and the Litchfield Scientific



Association, which in 1919 was merged with the Historical Society.

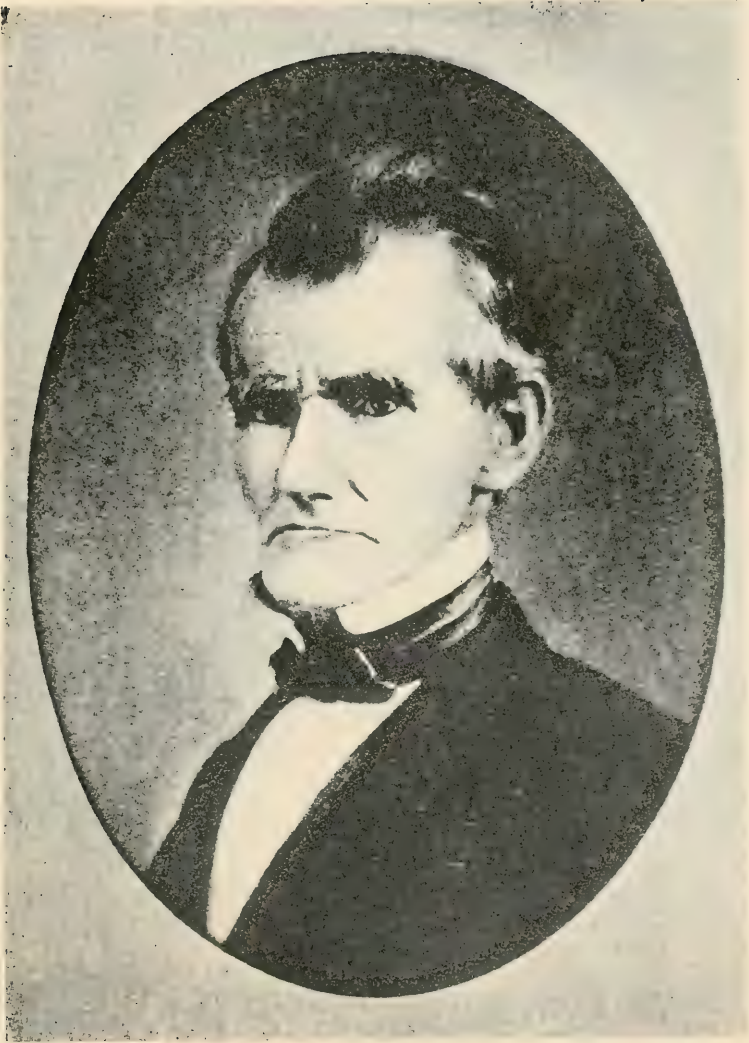
In speaking of this period of Litchfield, the name of Origen Storrs Seymour is constantly in the mind. He did not take an active part in the historical movement, which we have chosen as the key-note of the time, beyond delivering the Historical address at the Marsh and Buel picnic of 1846, but his interest in such matters was always keen. He was born in Litchfield, February 9, 1804, was graduated at the Law School, was Speaker of the House of Representatives at Hartford, was a member of the 32nd and 33rd Congresses in Washington, and was Judge of the Superior Court of the State for eight years, beginning in 1855. In 1870, he was chosen Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of Errors, and in 1873 he was chosen Chief Justice, which position he held till he reached the constitutional limit of age. After 1874, he served on many judicial and legislative Committees, the most important of which were the Commission to adjust the boundary line between this state and New York, and the Commission to simplify the methods of civil procedure in the state. The last public office which he held was a seat in the State Legislature, in 1881, the year of his death, being virtually unanimously elected thereto by his fellow townsmen. He died on August 12, 1881. He was married to Lucy M. Woodruff, daughter of Gen. Morris Woodruff, in 1830.

Judge Seymour came to the bar at a time when it was strongly represented throughout the County. The lawyers here at that time were Phineas Miner, Seth P. Beers, Asa Bacon, Jabez W. Huntington, Truman Smith, and David C. Sanford.

There remains a final aspect to be considered in our study of the changes which passed over Litchfield about the middle of the last century. This was the Mining craze. It seems to us to-day as though hardly any place could be found offering less opportunity for mining than Litchfield, and yet all sorts of undertakings were launched here. It looks almost as though, the legitimate means of commercial enterprise having in great part failed with the centralizing of the manufacturing establishments in the valleys, the methods of quackery were resorted to in the hope of drawing some commercial profits from the town. It is fortunate that most of these schemes were undertaken by outsiders. It was at any rate appropriate that one of these strange speculations should have been launched by the great American circus man, P. T. Barnum. He purchased a farm in the Pitch about 1848, together with many mining rights, and began to dig for copper. Two shafts were sunk, besides \$10,000., or so Barnum claimed, when the operations failed, and the creditors took over the property. In 1902, Thomas A. Edison sent two mining experts to look at the site, but they were wiser than Barnum and did not recommend operations here.

John T. Hubbard, who has made a full study of the various mines and mining ventures in Litchfield, in a lecture before the Litchfield Scientific Association, December 13, 1905, told of an





CHIEF JUSTICE ORIGEN STORRS SEYMOUR







JUDGE LEWIS B. WOODRUFF



earlier effort to obtain mineral in the Pitch. This was the New England Exploring and Mining Co. It had a capital stock of \$100,000., but never achieved anything beyond running a tunnel into the hillside south of the Pitch road.

The belief in the value of Litchfield's mineral resources was hard to down. In Kilbourne's History, we find this hopeful spirit, characteristic of the period, well expressed, p. 249: "In other parts of the town miners have met with better success. About two miles north-east of the village, a shaft has been sunk 25 feet in depth, by Albert Sedgwick and John W. Buell. The vein or lode is 14 feet in width, composed of pure quartz, with a slight mixture of felspar. In this vein is found a very pure grey Copper Ore, yielding by analysis  $79\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of copper. A bevel has been driven 140 feet, which when completed, will intersect the vein at 50 feet in depth. In this vein are also found great quantities of small pure garnets, which are as yet too small to be made valuable as articles of commerce. This vein, bearing nearly a north and south direction, can be traced for a distance of three miles. Half a mile from this location, was recently found an old shaft, fifteen feet deep, which is supposed to have been sunk long before the Revolution. This has been cleaned out, and sunk thirty feet upon a small vein of iron and copper running together. The quantity of copper found is not yet sufficient to render the digging profitable, the mine having been but partially developed.

"The lands of the Connecticut Mining Co., on Prospect Mountain, promise an abundant return for funds invested and labor performed. Disinterested parties, who have visited these mines, and others who have analyzed and smelted their copper, nickel, and silver ores, pronounce the percentage of pure metal to be much greater than that of some of the celebrated English mines. The enterprise in this company deserves and will receive a rich reward". Surely no prospectus could yield much better promise than this formal statement of Kilbourne. Judge Hubbard adds, however, "As 10 per cent. is a paying ore, it is unfortunate that Mssrs. Sedgwick and Buell did not mine more of their  $79\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. ore".

Another venture of these two enterprising men carried them to the land now owned by the Connecticut Junior Republic, where they sank a shaft 45 feet deep in the woods west of the buildings. Nothing was found in the shaft beyond Iron pyrites.

Various companies have been incorporated to do mining in the town, chiefly on Prospect, but it is not worth the space to say much about them. Yet one likes to linger on such possibilities as The American Mining Co., with a capital stock of \$100,000., for its Litchfield mine, this company being located at Windsor, Vermont, in 1850. Then there was the Litchfield County Mining and Quarrying Co., incorporated by the state Legislature in 1860, with a modest capital of \$300,000.

In 1860 also the Connecticut Mining Co., obtained a very favorable charter from the Legislature. They bought two mining rights on Prospect Mountain and issued \$200,000 of stock, much of which was successfully placed in Philadelphia. This was the company of which Kilbourne thought so well. Later the stock was increased by another \$200,000; buildings on the Mountain were constructed; and offices opened in the present brick building of Woodruff and Woodruff. In a prospectus, the promoters compared the mines to Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp. But quarrels arose within the company, as the monies raised were apparently not all put into the mines. To-day nothing remains to show, but a rather deep mud-hole.

In 1864, the Nickel Mining and Smelting Co., was organized under the laws of the State of New York, with a capital of \$600,000. They purchased the rights to mine on the west slope of Prospect Mountain, and evidently were concerned with actual mining rather than with the sale of stock. Some nickel was indeed taken out of the mountain, and it is said that it was sold to the Government and used to make the nickel cents which were in circulation before the nickel five-cent piece was placed in use. Eventually, the venture shared the fate of the other Litchfield mines.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### THE CIVIL WAR.

The changes which we have traced in the development of Litchfield, were never more marked than in the contrast between the days of the Revolution and those of the Civil War. In both wars Litchfield gave of her best; but the martyrdoms of the Prison Ship in the Revolution were only one side of the picture; there were also the romantic adventures of Col. Tallmadge, the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the elder Wolcott, the melting of the bullets, the capture of Ticonderoga by Litchfield-born Ethan Allen, the stores in the village streets, the passing of troops on their dapple greys, and of long munition trains. It was a period of suspense and excitement, but the excitement was always stimulating. In the Civil War, there was little but the suspense. Litchfield was too far from the seat of war to be directly involved, and the young men, whom she sent in hundreds as they were called for, fought and died without the glory of any historic personal achievement. Their names are treasured as heroes on our monuments in the Center and in Northfield; but they do not appear in the histories. The service was all the greater because it was so inconspicuous, just a unit in the vast operations of General Grant.

In the Revolution, Litchfield had sent 504 men into service, while in the Civil War our Honor Roll only includes 280 names, besides 44 men who enlisted and yielded to the temptation so universal in this particular war and deserted. The difference in numbers is partly accounted for by the greater population of Litchfield in the Revolution, when our territory included an extra thousand inhabitants in South Farms; it is also partly accounted for by the inclusion in the Civil War Roll only of the men who actually were residents of Litchfield when they enlisted, while the Revolutionary Roll includes also those who were connected with the Town before the War or afterwards.

It is not possible to estimate how many Litchfield men died in the Revolution. We know that, out of 36 men taken prisoners at Fort Washington, only six survived, but probably this was the only engagement where large losses followed. In the Civil War, approximately 77 men died in the service, from wounds, disease or other causes. Of these 52 names are on our monument, and the remaining 25 have been obtained from the Record of Connecticut Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865, published by the authority of the General Assembly, 1889. The proportion of deaths

among the Litchfield men was therefore very high, and testifies to their gallant action.

From the declaration of War, enlistments began from the Town; but it was not till after the close of General McClellan's disastrous Peninsula Campaign in 1862, when President Lincoln issued his memorable call for 300,000 more men, that a concerted effort was made here or elsewhere to stimulate enlistment on a large scale.

Appropriations to cover supplies for all volunteers and support for their families, when needed, were made by the Town from the earliest dates of the War. The first appropriation made was of \$5,000. on May 2, 1861. This was to be expended according to the judgment of a Committee consisting of Jason Whiting, William F. Baldwin and Philip S. Beebe. On November 23, 1861, a Town Meeting was held to instruct this Committee more in detail, and it was voted to give each volunteer a bonus of \$7. at the time of his being mustered in. On January 20, 1862, it was voted to continue payments for the support of soldiers' families, subject to a refund from the State.

Then, on July 3, 1862, came the Proclamation of Governor Buckingham, urging the State of Connecticut to raise a minimum of seven new Regiments. The response of Litchfield County was an entire Regiment, of which we shall speak at length presently.

Another result of the Proclamation was the immediate increase, at a Town Meeting on July 25, 1862, in the Bounty for each volunteer from \$7. to \$100. The payment of these bounties upon enlistment caused some men to volunteer for no purpose beyond obtaining the bounty, and was one of the causes, though only one, of the many desertions throughout the army, of which it has already been seen that Litchfield was also a victim.

Besides the call for 300,000 men for three years or the duration of the War, President Lincoln now made another call for 300,000 men for nine months' service. To meet this call, the Litchfield bounty was increased at a Town Meeting on September 8, 1862, to \$200. for each volunteer, previous volunteers receiving the difference between this sum and their former bounties.

On March 3, 1863, Congress passed the Conscription Law, assigning to Litchfield a quota of 40 men. At a Town Meeting, July 25, 1863, it was voted to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$12,000., and to pay \$300. towards each man who volunteered or was drafted to fill this quota of 40 men. This was America's first experience with the draft law, and it was not popular. "Great, strapping men, who before the war had always boasted of their bodily puissance, and who were never suspected, before or since, of having any other disease than a rush of pusillanimity to the heart, came limping and hobbling into town, and with touching earnestness inquired for the office of Dr. Beckwith, who was dealing out certificates of exemption from military duty to the mob that day and



night besieged his doors". (Vaill, Nineteenth Connecticut Volunteers, p. 15). The provision that substitutes could be provided by drafted men, under certain restrictions, does not require detailed explanation here.

Another quota of 60 men was called for from the town, as a part of President Lincoln's call in January 1864 for 500,000 men; and again in November 40 men were called for. These appear to have been the last men raised by the draft in Litchfield, though volunteers were at all times encouraged, though not as generously as before, owing probably to the fact that the draft machinery greatly facilitated obtaining the necessary men. The payments voted at different times to different groups of men were as follows: Jan. 18, 1864: \$50.; Feb. 18, 1864: \$80.; March 28, 1864: \$100.; Aug. 1, 1864: \$500.; and Nov. 22, 1864: \$150. At the close of the War, the injustice of such varied bounties was recognized, and on July 8, 1864, it was voted to pay to each Litchfield soldier or his family, excepting of course the deserters, a further sum wherever necessary to bring the bounties received up to a minimum of \$200. This vote, however, was repealed at a special Town Meeting called for the purpose on August 5, 1865 and we do not find that any further effort was made to equalize the bounties. The total cost of all the payments was upwards of \$50,000.00; some part of which was repaid by the Government, under the Conscription Law. The net cost to the Town, of the payments and bounties, was in the neighborhood of \$31,000.00.

We are fortunate in having two histories of the Litchfield County Regiment. One was written soon after the War by Theodore F. Vaill, who was Adjutant of the Regiment, and published by him in 1868: *History of the Second Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery; Originally the Nineteenth Connecticut Volunteers*. It is a volume of 366 pages, and is considered one of the most accurate of the regimental histories of the war. It is now out of print and exceedingly rare; we have heard of only three copies being preserved in the town of Litchfield. It was therefore appropriate for the Litchfield County University Club to bring out a new history by Dudley Landon Vaill, a son of Adjutant Vaill, entitled *The County Regiment*, 1908. This has liberal quotations from the earlier book, and puts the material into modern form. We quote the following account of the formation of the Regiment from the volume of Adjutant Vaill, pp. 9-16:

"On the 22nd of July, 1862, the people of 'Mountain County' gave authoritative expression of their spirit and purpose in a County Convention at Litchfield, at which resolutions were unanimously passed declaring that an entire regiment should be raised within the county, and urging the several towns to offer a bounty of \$100. to each volunteer. The Convention also unanimously recommended Lev-erett W. Wessells for the Colonelcy, and requested the Governor to rendezvous the new regiment at Litchfield. The project of raising

the Nineteenth, thus fairly set on foot, was pushed forward with the utmost vigor. The offer of a commission to anyone who should enlist forty men proved a great incentive to effort, and every young man who contemplated enlisting was straightway beset with a persistent horde of rival drummers, each armed with a persuasive tongue and a marvelous list of inducements. Nine companies were soon filled to the maximum, and some of them had several to spare. Colonel Wessells received his commission on July 25, and on August 13 issued a circular directing all officers recruiting for the Nineteenth Connecticut Volunteers to bring their squads into camp at Litchfield on August 19 or as soon thereafter as practicable.

"On the appointed day the Litchfield Company assembled at the Town Hall. The men who composed it arranged themselves in two rows, each man standing so very erect that his spine described an inward curve painful both to himself and the spectator; and having by much tuition been able to master the evolution known as 'right face', the procession proudly moved with Captain Bissell at its head, to Camp Dutton, on Chestnut Hill, so named in honor of Lieutenant Henry M. Dutton, of the Fifth Connecticut Volunteers, who had fallen at Cedar Mountain only ten days before. Upon arriving, they found a supply of bell-shaped tents awaiting them, which were soon pitched in regular order, under the supervision of Luman Wadhams, who had seen service in the Eighth; and before night the dwellers in the surrounding country, and far away on the hills, were turning their eyes towards the snow-white canvas that marked the first and only military encampment that had been seen within their borders since ancient times. ...

"On August 21, seven Companies with nearly seven hundred men marched into Litchfield, and after halting for refreshments at the Town Hall, where the ever patriotic ladies had lavishly provided for their entertainment, proceeded to camp ... Company I arrived on the 24th of August; and a few days later the commandants of the nine Companies were each required to furnish a quota for the formation of a tenth Company, (K), which was thus made up of recruits from 25 different towns. And so the Nineteenth was encamped. In order to raise it Litchfield County had given up the flower of her youth, the pride and hope of hundreds of her families; and they had by no means enlisted to fight for a superior class of men at home. There was no superior class at home. In moral qualities, in social worth, in every civil relation, they were the best that Connecticut had to give. More than *fifty* of the rank and file of the regiment subsequently found their way to commissions, and at least a hundred more proved themselves not one whit less competent or worthy to wear sash and saber if it had been their fortune. It was the intelligent obedience, the soldierly bearing, the self respect, the faithfulness, the wounds and blood of the enlisted men of the Nineteenth Infantry, afterwards the Second Artillery, that averted defeat or secured victory for the cause of the Union

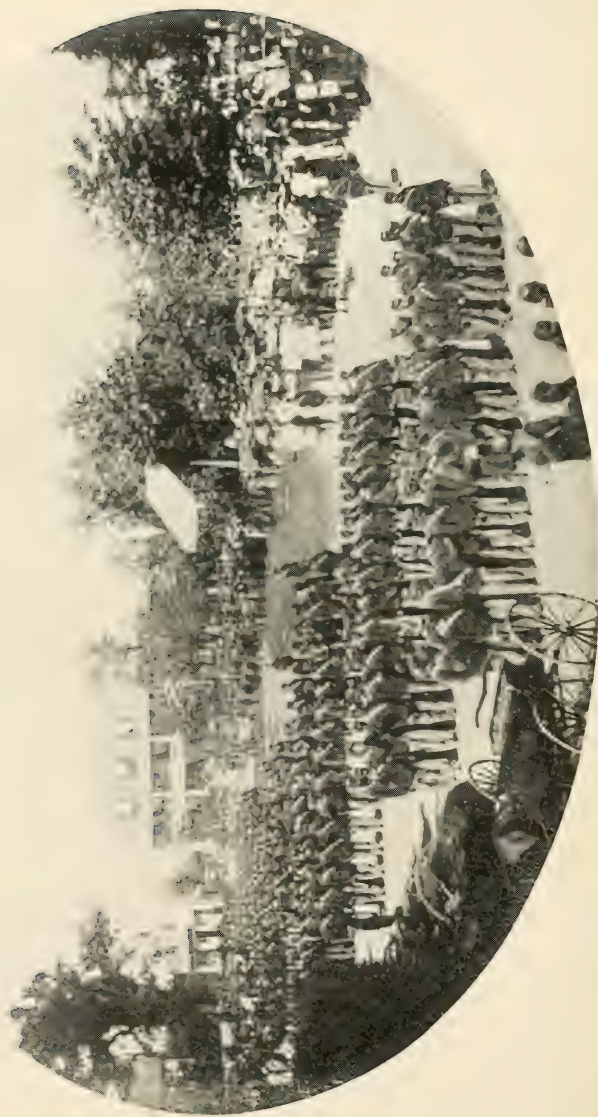


DWIGHT C. KILBOURN









PRESENTATION OF COLORS. SEPT. 10, 1862

upon more than one desperate field, and that purchased stars for more than one pair of shoulders.

"Camp Dutton was a beautiful spot, but no place for a regiment to learn its hard and ugly trade. Fond mothers and aunts raked the position with a galling and incessant fire of doughnuts, apples, butter, pies, cheese, honey, and other dainties not conducive to the suppression of the rebellion, and citizens thronged the streets and environs from morning till night. Lieutenant Colonel Kellogg was impatient at this state of things, and well he might be. The actual command had devolved on him from the first, Colonel Wessells being occupied with matters appertaining to the organization and outfit of the regiment, and he feared lest he should be called into fight with the men all innocent and raw as they were, for Lee was in Maryland, and the rumbling of the storm that shortly afterward burst at Antietam and Sharpsburg could plainly be heard. ...

"On the 10th of September the regiment marched to the village to receive an elegant stand of colors from Mrs. William Curtis Noyes and to listen to a presentation address by her husband, then in the zenith of his power and fame. On the 11th, the regiment was mustered, by Lieutenant Watson Webb, into the service of the United States and on the 15th, having formed in line, and given three parting cheers for Camp Dutton, the long and firmly treading battalion, consisting of 889 officers and men, moved to Litchfield Station where a train of 23 cars stood ready to take them to New York. The deep interest everywhere felt in the Mountain County Regiment was attested by crowds of people at the stations and all along the railway and by white handkerchiefs and white hands that waived us a farewell and a blessing from window and verandah and hilltop. ..."

Leverett W. Wessells, the first Colonel of the Nineteenth, was born in Litchfield, July 28, 1819. He enlisted on July 25, 1862, and was commissioned Colonel on the same day. He held the following offices: Colonel commanding Second Brigade, Defense of Washington, South of the Potomac, and was honorably discharged September 15, 1863, at Washington, D. C., resigning by reason of ill-health. He was appointed Provost Marshall of the Fourth District of Connecticut, February 9, 1864, and was finally discharged October 5, 1865, by reason of the ending of the War. He died April 4, 1895, at Dover, Del. His brother, General Henry W. Wessells, was also a distinguished soldier, having served in the Mexican War, with the rank of Major. In the Civil War, he was Major of the Sixth Connecticut Infantry, 1861; Colonel, Eighth Regiment Kansas Volunteers, 1861; Brigadier General of Volunteers, 1862; and Brigadier General, U. S. A., March 13, 1865; he retired from the military service on January 1, 1871.

It is not within the scope of this work to follow the Nineteenth Regiment completely through its campaigns in active service; but mention should at least be made of the names of the actions in which

it took so gallant a part, and the story of Cold Harbor must be told more in full.

"For more than a year and a half the regiment was numbered among the defenders of the Capital, removing after a few months from the immediate neighborhood of Alexandria and being stationed among the different forts and redoubts which formed the line of defence south of the Potomac. . . . It was in November 1863, that the War Department orders were issued changing the Nineteenth Infantry to a regiment of heavy artillery, which Governor Buckingham denominated the Second Connecticut. Artillery drill had for some time been part of its work, and the general efficiency and good record of the regiment in all particulars was responsible for the change, which was a welcome one, as the Artillery was considered a very desirable branch of the service, and the increase in size gave prospects of speedier promotion". (Dudley Vaill, pp. 19, 21).

On May 17, 1864, the summons came, which the Second Heavy Artillery had almost ceased to expect, after its long period of immunity.

"The preceding two weeks had been among the most eventful of the war. They had seen the crossing of the Rapidan by Grant on the 4th, and the terrible battles for days following in the Wilderness and at Spottsylvania, depleting the army by such enormous losses as even this war had hardly seen before. Heavy reinforcements were demanded and sent forward from all branches of the service; in the emergency this artillery regiment was summoned to fight as infantry, and so served until the end of the conflict, though for a long time with a hope, which survived many disappointments, of being assigned to its proper work with the heavy guns". (Dudley Vaill, p. 25).

When the regiment reached the front, Grant was in full march towards Richmond, and for a week the regiment was put through a series of forced marches which tried the oldest veterans who were in the same corps and which to the inexperienced Second Artillery was almost beyond endurance. At first they were overburdened with their baggage, but they soon threw down by the roadside everything that could be spared and much that should not have been spared. Over \$20,000. worth of the private property of the men was thrown aside, besides great quantities of government rations. Without proper food, foot-sore, and without sleep, the regiment struggled on, sometimes getting its only nourishment from the dry corn picked up by the way and eaten raw.

The first contact with the enemy came at a skirmish at Jericho Ford, on the North Anna River, on May 24, resulting in the death of one man and the wounding of three others.

On May 31, the regiment reached Cold Harbor. Exhausted with fatigue, they slept on the ground where they stopped, careless of the evident preparations for battle which General Grant was obviously making, by the concentration of great bodies of men. Their stupor



was such, that even when they were told of the expected engagement by their commander, Colonel Kellogg of New Hartford, they were unable to understand his meaning. It was happy for them, perhaps, that this was the case, for had they known what was in store for them on the morrow even their short rest must have been denied them.

At five o'clock in the afternoon of June 1, 1864, the untried Second Connecticut Heavy Artillery, moving in three battalions of four companies each, was marched out of the breast-works to help in dislodging the enemy from their entrenched positions at Cold Harbor. The first battalion, including Company A, the Litchfield company, was sent across an open field, with the colors in the centre, and easily passed the first line of rifle pits, which was abandoned at its approach. The confederate soldiers had made a barrier of pines and saplings in front of their main line of breast-works, which proved practically impassable. As the battalion came up to it, unsupported on either side, the enemy's musketry opened. The fire passed overhead, and they fell to the ground to avoid further volleys. "Several men were struck, but not a large number. It is more than probable that if there had been no other than this front fire, the rebel breastworks would have been ours, notwithstanding the pine boughs. But at that moment a long line of rebels on our left, having nothing in their own front to engage their attention, and having unobstructed range on the battalion, opened a fire which no human valor could withstand, and which no pen can adequately describe. It was the work of almost a single minute. The air was filled with sulphurous smoke, and the shrieks and howls of more than two hundred and fifty mangled men rose above the yells of triumphant rebels and the roar of their musketry. 'About face', shouted Colonel Kellogg, but it was his last command. He had already been struck in the arm, and the words had scarcely passed his lips when another shot pierced his head, and he fell dead upon the interlacing pine boughs. Wild and blind with wounds, bruises, noise, smoke, and conflicting orders, the men staggered in every direction, some of them falling upon the very top of the rebel parapet, where they were completely riddled with bullets, others wandering off into the woods on the right and front, to find their way to death by starvation at Andersonville, or never to be heard of again". (Theodore Vaill, p. 63).

The second battalion, behind them, could give no support, for fear of shooting right into their own men. There was however no suggestion of retreat at any point, and, indeed, in a lull in the firing, several hundred of the enemy came across the parapets and surrendered. Through a misunderstanding, the credit of their capture was given to other units.

As the hours passed through the terrible night, the regiment held the ground that had been gained. The enemy under cover of the darkness vacated their breastworks, and when at three o'clock

in the morning other troops were sent to relieve the Second Regiment, the troops which in ten hours had been converted into veterans turned over to them the position which was to remain the front during the rest of the stay until Grant's sudden movement began against Petersburg.

For twelve days, the regiment was more or less in constant action, but the fighting was so much less severe than on the fateful First of June, that it need hardly be mentioned. Indeed that first engagement was the most serious that the regiment saw at any time of the war. Its loss in that one night was greater than that of any other Connecticut regiment in any single battle. "The record of Cold Harbor, of which all but a very small proportion was incurred on June 1st, is given as follows: Killed or died of wounds, 121; wounded, 190; missing, 15; prisoners, 3". (Dudley Vaill, p. 37). This total of 329 casualties, in a regiment of 1,800 men, fell with special force on the Litchfield company. Of 33 men who were killed or died from wounds during the whole service of this company, 29 fell at Cold Harbor, all but two on the night of June 1st. The Litchfield men among these 29 were the following: Corporal Albert A. Jones; Lyman J. Smith, Jr.; Robert Watt; John Ifland; Willard H. Parmalee; Almon B. Bradley; Patrick Ryan; Captain Luman Wadhams (died of wounds); Corporal George Wilson Potter; Corporal Charles Adams, Jr.; Corporal Apollos C. Morse; Andrew J. Brooker; Amos H. Stillson.

Other Litchfield men killed the same night, in other companies, were Michael Bray; John Handel.

On June 12, 1864, the regiment moved to Petersburg, where it remained until July 9th. For the next two months or more it took part in the maneuvers under General Sheridan of the Shenandoah Valley campaign, having its severest battle at Winchester on September 19, where its efficient work at a moment of crisis turned an impending defeat into an important victory. Three days later, the regiment was sent against the fort on Fisher's Hill, considered the Gibraltar of the Valley, which they scaled and captured, with a loss of only four men killed. The enemy were taken completely by surprise and driven it was thought for all time out of the Valley.

The confederate General, Early, took advantage of the withdrawal of Sheridan's forces, to re-occupy Fisher's Hill, and the Second Connecticut found itself ordered back to Cedar Creek, where it arrived on October 14th. Five days later, the dramatic battle, which bears this name, was fought, and again the Second Connecticut had a proud and successful part in it. After an apparent defeat of the Union forces, which at one moment threatened to become an irretrievable rout, the tide of the battle turned, and ended in a complete victory which marked the successful conclusion of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

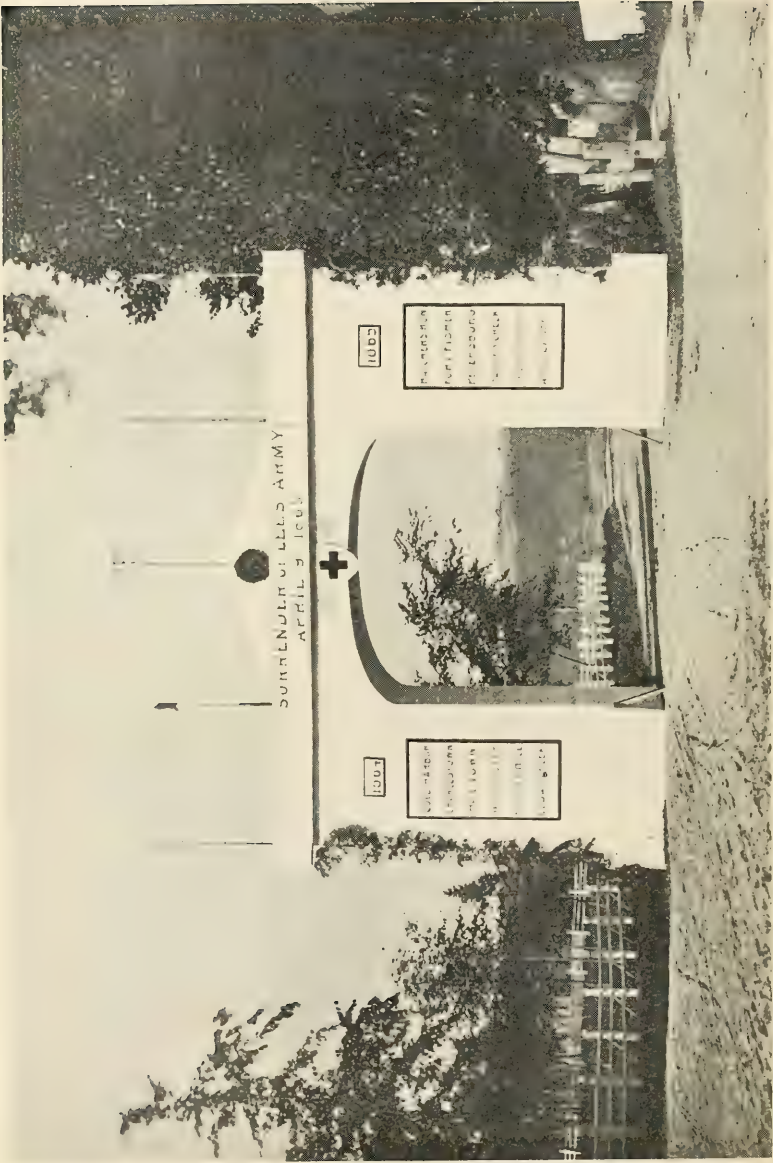


CHARGE OF THE 2D CONNECTICUT HEAVY ARTILLERY AT THE BATTLE OF GALTHERY, N.Y.









THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH ON EAST STREET, AUGUST 1, 1865

At Cedar Creek as at Winchester, the regiment had large losses, but for the Litchfield men they were proportionately much smaller than in the fateful battle of Cold Harbor. Corporal Franklin M. Bunnell was wounded at Winchester early in the day, but continued to fight with his company until just before the close of the battle. He died six days later at Jarvis Hospital, Baltimore. Corporal John L. Wilcox was shot at the battle of Cedar Creek in the side and back. The shot was not found until the third day: when it was removed a hemorrhage developed and he died on the way from the Valley to Baltimore, October 28. These were the only two men from Litchfield in the Litchfield Company who were killed after the battle of Cold Harbor.

For two months after Cedar Creek, the regiment saw no more fighting. It was again joined to Grant's army, and on February 5 and 6, 1865, was engaged in the action at Hatcher's Run. Then came another period of inaction, and then the final engagement, which began with the attack on Fort Stedman, March 25, and ended with the capture of Petersburg on April 3, 1865. The Second Connecticut afterwards claimed to have been the first regiment to enter the city, but they did not carry their colors when they marched against it, and those of another unit were raised above the city. The same day, the regiment started in pursuit of Lee's army, and had reached a point close to Appomattox Court House, when the news reached them of the surrender there on April 9, of all that was left of Lee's forces to General Grant.

The terrible news of Cold Harbor fell upon the families and friends of the Litchfield men like a thunderbolt. For months the letters that came from the South had told only of inaction. Then suddenly came the news that the regiment was on the march, and within two weeks the rumor of a great battle was received. It was impossible to get names or correct particulars. The chief link with official bureaus was through John H. Hubbard, who was then Congressman in Washington. He was an ardent administration man, and Lincoln used to call him Old Connecticut; but even Washington could give no sure information, when many of the wounded were still lying outside the lines. Long afterwards, Mrs. Hubbard wrote, (*Book of Days*, p. 87): "You can have no idea of the intense anxiety in the days following Cold Harbor. It was the same after every great battle in which Litchfield troops were engaged. The telegraph wires had more news than they could carry. It was impossible to get details. All we knew was, that a terrible battle had been fought and that a great number were either dead or wounded. As Mr. Hubbard was Congressman, our house was a rendezvous for people hoping or fearing for news. They would often stay till late at night. I particularly remember one woman from Goshen who waited till eleven o'clock, and then went home, cheered with the thought that no news was good news. She had

just gone home, when we received word that her husband was among the slain”.

And George Kenney wrote, (*Book of Days*, p. 88): “Such funerals as we had in those days! I had the stage line then and, when the war was over, I brought up from the Naugatuck station all that were left from a company that went from this town. I carried them all up in one stage drawn by four horses”.

The heaviest toll, proportionately, was taken of the families who lived in the district west of the center. Here within a small radius were six farm-houses to which one or more of the men who had gone to the war were brought back dead. Three sons of the Wadhams family, who lived in the house west of the road across Harris Plain, were killed in the space of fourteen days. On May 28, 1864, the Second Connecticut happened to be near the Fourteenth Connecticut. Captain Luman Wadhams went to headquarters, requesting permission to go and see his brother in the latter regiment. It was given. When he returned, the Colonel asked him if he had found him. “I found he was killed day before yesterday”, was the sad reply. Four days after, Captain Luman Wadhams was killed, and both of them died without knowing that their younger brother, Edward, a Sergeant in the Eighth Connecticut, had been killed at Fort Darling on May 16.

So in Litchfield, when Deacon Adams had been over to break the news of the death of one of the brothers, he was on his way back to the village when he was told that another had fallen.

When the widow of Captain Luman Wadhams learned of her loss, the desire came to her to go herself to the South and help in nursing those who were still fated to go through the experience of her husband, those who were to linger from their wounds for a few days, and perhaps die when some little care beyond what the doctors had to give would have saved them. The number of nurses was very restricted, totally inadequate according to the standards of the present; and it is another source of pride for Litchfield to know that one of its women went and did such good work for the soldiers. She joined Sheridan's army at Winchester, where her husband's regiment had fought in August and where one of the larger field hospitals was situated. One of the letters which she wrote soon after her arrival is preserved, and is worth quoting to show the conditions of the day:

“October 31, 1864. To the Rev. George Richards. Dear Friend: As you were the means of obtaining for me a place here I thought I would tell you how I am passing my time in my new home, that is if a tent can be called a home, and that it can I am sure many will testify. I reached this place the day after Sheridan's last battle, the 19th. I found the place in a state of great commotion: many had, on the news of a repulse, packed up their goods, some had left, some were running distracted, not knowing what to do or where to go; but it is of the wounded I must tell you. I reported



immediately on arriving to the Medical Director, who informed me I had arrived just in time, as they were expecting fifteen hundred wounded in a short time. I was sent to the Nineteenth Corps Hospital for a few days, as I was needed more there at that time. I must tell you of my initiation. I had not slept since leaving Washington, but you may well guess sleep was far from my thoughts. The doctor told me to prepare myself with a basin, towel, etc., and left me with another lady to await the coming of the ambulance train. Now I think it would be impossible to describe my feelings, while sitting there waiting. I had thought it over many times at home before leaving, how I should bear the sight of those poor, wounded, dying men, and I knew my after efforts depended a great deal on it. The train came, they brought them in on stretchers, and placed them on straw beds on the floor of the church, as thick nearly as they could lie. And I, I went to work, washing first, feeding next, then the surgeon asked me 'could I dress wounds?' I told him I would try, and I did. And not until near morning did I leave those poor, wounded, dying men. I never stopped to ask myself how I was bearing it, never thought to cry, never felt like it, I only felt these men were suffering and I must help them, and I, if I were to go home to-morrow, I should thank God that I had come, if only for that one night. I had, as you will remember, taken a few lessons in bandaging at Columbia College Hospital at Washington before coming. I found that of great service to me. There was not an arm, head, leg, or any wound even, I shrank from, however bad it was. There was one poor boy, that had his right eye entirely shot away, and his left was so filled with blood, dirt and powder he thought that was gone too, as he told me: 'I am blind, Lady, blind for my flag'. But by frequent bathing in cold water he can see a very little. I hope to be able to restore that eye entirely. His nose is nearly half gone. Another has his left lung laid entirely bare, you can look in and see the beating and working of that delicate machinery, but there he lies, uncomplainingly, patiently awaiting his death. Of course many have lost legs, arms, and some both, some seem almost literally riddled with shot. I asked one dear boy, covered with wounds, where he was wounded. He replied: 'All over, Lady', and sure it seemed so; he was hit with a piece of shell in his head, a horrible gash, then a ball had entered his left side, passed entirely through his body and had fractured his right arm. He is now doing well. I might tell of many such cases, but you will not care to be wearied. Others, apparently slightly wounded, have since died, many more must. They are sending them as fast as possible to Martinsburg, and then on to Baltimore. We are crowded here, but I think it would have been better to have kept them a few days, for the poor boys were so near gone that forty died on the way to Martinsburg, and twenty in the cars before reaching Harpers' Ferry. They were brought from Newtown, a distance of eight miles from here and six from Cedar

Creek, and we fed them here without taking them from the ambulances, and they sent them on to Martinsburg, making in all 23 miles without resting. We have better accommodations here than at first; I am now at the Sheridan Hospital. It is half mile out from Winchester on a rise of ground and seems doing finely, many must die. They have all done for them possible. ...”

The men of the western part of town were known as the Flower of Litchfield, and it was appropriate that one of them should have given his name to the local Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. This was Seth F. Plumb. He was killed at Fort Harrison, Va., on September 29, 1864. He was a member of the Eighth Connecticut, in the same Company E in which Edward Wadswams was the Captain. He was a deeply religious man; and was participating with other members of the regiment in a service of prayer, when the orders came to charge across an open field upon Fort Harrison. The Fort was captured, but he was killed in the attack. He always considered his soldier life as a religious duty for his country. He was buried at Bermuda Hundred, between the bodies of two young comrades who like himself had just been promoted for personal bravery. At the request of his father, his body was later brought to Litchfield by his friend Joseph H. Vaill, and lies buried in our West Cemetery.

The Seth F. Plumb Post, No. 80, Department of Connecticut, was formed in 1884. Its records were kept by Dwight C. Kilbourn, who was First Lieutenant of Company C in the Second Connecticut. He was wounded in both arms at the battle of Winchester, September 19, 1864, but was able to rejoin his regiment in three months. He died at his home in East Litchfield, in 1914, at the age of 77 years. Mr. Kilbourn was by nature a historian; he had the historical sense, as will be testified by all who have read his admirable Bench and Bar. He wrote many minor works and articles; but it is not generally known that he also wrote a history of the town. This had just been completed at the time of the fire of 1886, in which his law office was burned, together with his large library and the manuscript of his great work. He afterwards gathered together a new and valuable library, but he did not re-write the history.

The war records of the individual men, whose names are kept in proud remembrance on our Honor Roll, cannot be given in detail here. It was honorable service, performed with ready willingness. There was little of romance or of the unusual, little that varied from the hard routine of the soldier's life. We do however read of one case of a Litchfield boy, Lyman E. Sweet, who captured three prisoners of the enemy “with a coffee-pot” at the second battle of Hatcher's Run, but even here we are deprived of the details of this marvelous exploit!

For Litchfield the real end of the War was on August 1st, 1865, on which day the soldiers of the Second Regiment and others

returned from camp. About three hundred of the County Regiment were present. The Triumphal Arch stood on East Street, near the side of the present Library, making a gateway to Litchfield as the men arrived from the East Litchfield Station. There was a parade, and speeches. The whole town was decorated to welcome the men.

Two monuments have been erected in the Town to the memory of the men who fell in the Civil War. The one in Northfield is of red sandstone, and was erected by the citizens of that village directly after the end of the war, and is said to have been the first of the Soldiers' Monuments to be completed in the country. The one in Litchfield stands in the Center Park. It is of white marble, and bears the names of 52 soldiers, including the 8 names which are on the Northfield Monument.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### IMPRESSIONS AND POST-IMPRESSIONS.

BY DR. ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK.

My boyhood was spent in Litchfield until I went to college in 1877. After an absence of many years, with but occasional visits, I returned about 1911 as a householder and a member of the summer colony. I am therefore in the unusual position of being able to describe the Litchfield of the early 70's as seen through a boy's eyes, and to note the changes that have occurred in our town between 1870 and 1920, without having my impressions dimmed by too great a familiarity with the intervening years. Changes, which have come so gradually as to be almost unnoticed by the permanent residents of Litchfield, present their cumulative effect to the returned absentee with a startling reality. Though these changes may be relatively small, who can tell but that the flight of fifty years may one day be seen to have had its importance in the great historical picture of our American civilization? Part of my notes on this head have already been used by me in a lecture before the Litchfield Historical Society on "Changing Litchfield", delivered on September 1, 1914, and reported in the *Enquirer* of the following day.

Litchfield in the early 70's was a pretty good place for a boy to grow up in. Here lived an unusually large number of persons, of all ages and degrees, whom it was stimulating to know. Among those who impressed themselves early on my boyish memory, were George C. Woodruff and his wife, the latter known to her numerous band of relatives and to very many others as "Aunt Sophy". George C., as he was usually called, (the family name went without saying), was a lawyer and a gentleman of the old school: the perfect incarnation of stern Puritan justice and uprightness, a terror to evil-doers, forbidding sometimes even to the just, but full of humor and kindness under his shell. I stood in awe of the stern exterior and I was half terrified and half scandalized when my mother, who had known him as a good friend, many years before I was born, used to venture upon persiflage in conversation with him. I well recollect a controversy on the subject of Contentment, which was renewed between them at each casual meeting. Stopping her in the street, Mr. Woodruff would fix her with his eye and quote with a sternness that almost withered me where I stood: "Contentment with Godliness is great gain". To which my mother rejoined: "Yes, and 'to die is gain'; and so Contentment is only a living death!" All



of which gave, and still gives, me food for thought. I have always thought that her husband's mask of sternness worried Aunt Sophy a little. She knew him as he was, and she would fain have had others do likewise,—especially boys of ten.

Another of the Litchfield great ones of this era was Origen S. Seymour, afterwards Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court. Judge Seymour's eyesight had been weak from boyhood and the completion of his college course was dependent on the services of a companion to read his lessons to him. In later life, on the Bench or elsewhere, he always sat with closed eyes when listening intently. This sometimes gave rise to misunderstanding, as when a newly inducted rector of St. Michael's remarked, after his first sermon, that Judge Seymour seemed to have enjoyed it, as he was sound asleep all the time! As a matter of fact the Judge could probably have reproduced that sermon, if required, with a good deal more fidelity than it deserved. Judge Seymour was kind to boys, and I remember several conversations with him in his study at the South Street house. He told me once how he went to New Haven on horseback, to pass his Yale entrance examination. He and a companion had but one horse between them, and used the method of "ride and tie", by which one rode ahead for a specified distance and the other followed on foot; having covered the distance agreed upon, the first tied the horse to a tree and himself proceeded to walk; when the second reached the horse he mounted, overtook his companion, rode ahead of him, tied the horse in turn, and so matters went until the end of the journey. It was effective and economical, but somewhat unsociable, it always seemed to me.

When retired for age, Judge Seymour was Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court of Errors. We have had two Litchfield Chief Justices in my day, the other being Governor Charles B. Andrews, our only Governor since the days of the Wolcotts.

Edwin McNeill was the first approach to anything like a financial magnate that our little town had ever known. A farmer's boy, of that dour but extremely competent Scotch strain that has left its impress all over our land, he became an eminent civil engineer, amassed what was then a fortune, and failing in health returned to live on Litchfield Hill. He bought from Gideon H. Hollister the house on North Street now owned by Frederick Deming and proceeded to remodel it on a scale of luxury then unheard of, including a billiard-room, a hot-air furnace, and running water. He was a force in Litchfield while he lived, and his influence upon it persists to this day. Almost alone he pushed through the direct railway connection with New York against great difficulties.

I do not recollect anyone who ever occupied precisely the same relation to a town as that held during my boyhood and for many years afterward by J. Deming Perkins. Wealthy patrons are not unknown to New England towns, but Mr. Perkins' services to Litchfield were not precisely of this type. He was continually giving, in no spectacular way, things that he knew by observation

were needed by the village and unlikely to be acquired by it through public channels. This was the more welcome at that time because the old village organization had fallen into abeyance and had not been revived in its present borough form. There was no way in which Litchfield could raise money by taxation, except as a township; and the residents of Bantam, Milton and Northfield were not at all likely to contribute to the betterment of Litchfield village. So, when Litchfield streets were dark, and lanterns on the elms did not seem to fill the bill, Mr. Perkins ordered lamp-posts from New York, set them up on the conspicuous corners around the Green and paid a man to fill and light the lamps until the Village Improvement Society took the job from his hands. He became the President of the V. I. S., and was its good genius and constant adviser. I well remember how proudly he used to tell us that the color of the new lamp-posts, white with green trimmings, was precisely that of the posts on Fourth Avenue in New York, the first metropolitan thoroughfare that the countryman used to see when he issued in wonderment from the portals of the old New Haven station at 27th Street, where the Madison Square Garden now stands.

When a badly frayed banner ceased to disgrace our hundred-foot mast on the Green and was replaced by a bright new one, we did not need to ask who had bought and paid for it. And it was under his auspices that the V. I. S. raised the money to build tar pavements over the town, setting a fashion that still persists. The Enquirer used to comment proudly every week on the fact that "the tar rolls steadily westward", or northward or southward, as the case might be. The money was raised, not by a "drive", which would have "driven" most of us out of town, but by a series of entertainments of all possible kinds. In organizing these, Mr. Perkins was active and invaluable, and his experience was always available. When we wanted a new stage curtain, he sent out and bought strips of cloth in claret and buff and had them assembled in exact imitation of a Vienna concert-hall curtain. When anything was to be done that required money, experience, judgment or hard work, his was the name first in our minds, and he never failed us. Of Mr. Perkins' other and great services to Litchfield this is not the place to speak; but the fact that he was the first president of the Shepaug Railroad reminds me that I must not overlook the great part that this institution played in our lives in the 70's.

The history of almost every railroad is worth writing. Will that of the Shepaug ever be set down? From start to finish it was a fight. When Edwin McNeill was making the preliminary surveys, he was confronted time and again by angry farmers who objected to the proceedings as trespass. When it comes to a consciousness of the rights of land proprietorship, the average Connecticut farmer makes an English Duke look "like thirty cents". On one occasion the opposing farmer bore a shot-gun, and threatened to use it; Mr. McNeill calmly vaulted the fence, saying: "Come on boys; I have smelt powder before!" The farmer did not shoot.



HON. J. DEMING PERKINS









Dr. HENRY W. BUTLER

Later came the fight to induce the towns along the route to subscribe for the stock. This raged in the town meetings and is best described in John D. Champlin's *Chronicles of Sirrom*, (Morris spelled backward), first printed anonymously in the *Sentinel*, of which Champlin was then editor. As a piece of semi-political pamphleteering, this takes high rank.

But we boys did not really get into the game until actual construction work began at our end of the line. Recognizing the value of the stimulation of interest by visualization, Mr. Perkins even had rails teamed over from East Litchfield, so that they could be laid here before the arrival of the outfit from Hawleyville. We were interested spectators of the work from the early day when Miss Lucretia Deming's ice-house was split in two by the workmen's picks, to the triumphant hour when the whistle announcing the arrival of the Waramaug at the foot of West Hill brought out our whole population. It will be remembered that the names of our three locomotives: Shepaug, Waramaug, and Weantinaug, moved a jealous neighboring sheet to remark, that they *aug-ured* well for the future.

Then began the fun for us boys. Things were new and rules were slack, and we rode on the engines of construction trains as much as we pleased. I even remember seeing Eph Mower standing at the throttle upon occasion. Of course we knew intimately all conductors, brakemen, engineers and firemen. What Litchfield boy was not proud to number among his friends the redoubtable Al Paul? Al was a Welshman, and worth knowing. If Roosevelt shook hands habitually with his faithful engineer and fireman, we went him one better; we adored ours, they were as heroes and demigods to us. Putting up the hand brakes, there were no air brakes then, became a standard sport with us. All this was educational, although if we had suspected that it was, doubtless we should have turned to something else.

In my boyhood, Litchfield had lately been a purely American community, by which I mean one inhabited almost solely by families of English descent. There were only half a dozen negroes or so, and the Irish had only recently begun to come in. I remember no other exotic races. This accounts for the fact that individual members of these two races play a large part in my memories. The negroes were not employed as house servants, or in general outdoor work about houses. They were not coachmen or gardeners, but were manual laborers on outside jobs. In the South, black and white boys play freely together. What the Southerner is particular about is not social contact, but social status. The latter did not worry us, but there were only two negro boys, as I recollect, who associated with us. One was Charles Nicholas Doute, a West Indian, brought here as a servant by the McNeills. His French accent and queer ways amused us, and caused him to be graded in a class by himself. The other was Sam Rowe, the son of Solomon Rowe, sexton of St. Michael's Church. The Rowes were altogether

a notable family. Their hospitality was without stint, and their little shack, already bursting with the Rowe family, was warranted to hold as many guests as applied for admission. Sol was a wit. When a certain young rector, who had business interests in New York, used to absent himself from his duties, so frequently as to cause remark, Sol said, "I can always tell when Mr. X. is going to be away, for the Sunday before he always preaches from the text: 'It is expedient that I should leave you'".

The Rowes, I believe, had been Northern for some generations. A great contrast were the Elliots, who came from the South with Jack, the head of the family, after the Civil War. These were negroes of the real Virginia plantation variety. Jack presided at the rear of the Congregational organ, during the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Elliot, which led some wit to remark that there was an Elliot *blowing* at each end of the Church.

About the only other colored families in town were the Harrissons and the Jacksons, and I can pass over neither. The Jacksons have already been mentioned as the last family whose ancestor had been a Litchfield slave. As known to me, they were Aunt Lucy and Crazy Caroline. The latter was really out of her mind and used to parade the streets with corn-silk curls and a small branch for a parasol. Aunt Lucy was a colored Mrs. Partington. On being asked once where she was going, she replied: "Oh, just around the corner to explode". On another occasion she expressed her pleasure on the receipt of some gift by remarking: "I am not only gratified, but *highly mollified*". Meeting on the street Gideon H. Hollister, who had just been appointed to the Haytian mission by President Johnson, she thus addressed him: "Well, Mr. Hollister! I hear you've been appointed minister to Hayti! Well, I hope you'll preach to 'em, and convert 'em all!" To one who inquired if she were comfortably situated, she replied: "I have everything that heart could wish in full bloom, and some in maturity!"

As for the Harrissons, they were brothers, Miles and Epaphroditus, Paiphe for short. Paiphe was a great hulky, lumbering giant, in demand where brute strength was required, and ready to shout out rough badinage at any boy who would take it. If anyone should be surprised at this extended treatment of the so-called menial classes, I would remind him that these classes bulk very large in the experience of children. In a village like Litchfield, the boys are acquainted with all the cooks and all the hired men, and many of them, to be sure, are well worth knowing.

As I have said, we were just beginning to know the Irish. They lived in a colony at the foot of East Hill, then known as Lavinville; for the Lavin family formed no inconsiderable part of it, and the family was one of standing and influence. Patrick Lavin, the head of it, had begun, many years before in Ireland, his education for the priesthood. I know not why or how it was interrupted, but it was an awesome thing for a boy to have a man making his garden, who had studied Latin.



At this time the Irish in Litchfield were all domestic servants and day laborers. Their advance, here and elsewhere, in a single generation, is one of the most notable changes in our country with which I am familiar. I never knew a finer lady in temperament and manners than old Mrs. Lavin. She was the soul of considerate politeness. On one occasion I had achieved, in a course of lessons in drawing, what I considered a masterpiece in the form of a picture of a barrel, with orthodox perspective and shading. I ran to show my result to Mrs. Lavin, who was washing clothes. She dried her hands, took the drawing and admired it for some time. Then she said: "My, my! but isn't it fine! Sure, it's a church, isn't it?" Now, the drawing was really not so bad; but Mrs. Lavin's eyesight was failing. I have always loved her for her desire to say the right thing.

Two generations made a difference. Possibly also saying the right thing, but from a different standpoint and in a different way, Mrs. Lavin's little granddaughter, carving knife in hand, chased Charlie Belden, who had said "shoo" to the family rooster, down East Street, shouting the while this bloody threat: "I'll cut the one head off ye!" That suggestion of a possible cranial plurality always amused me.

Our colored Mrs. Partington, described above, was not our only one. Decidedly "male, white and 21", was Ed Peck, who filled, for what now seems to have been a large part of my boyhood, the office of jailer in Litchfield. Huge of frame, kindly of speech, popular with one and all, Ed could rarely say exactly what he meant. Put forward to utter a few words of thanks, when a delegation, of which he was a member, had been entertained at lunch, he said briefly: "Gentlemen; I thank you very kindly for your handsome coalition". And in narrating his part in the contribution of a fund for some suffering brother or sister, he went on: "So I mounted down off my horse and put in *my* poor pitiless mite".

I was particularly interested in our two newspapers. In the first place I have always been intrigued by print, and secondly I was intimate with both editors. George A. Hickox, of the Enquirer, was my next door neighbor, and John D. Champlin Jr., of the Sentinel, was my first cousin. He lived at the Mansion House, and his sanctum there was the literary Mecca of my early years. The Enquirer and the Sentinel carried a line of good-humored political badinage in those days that was rather better than some modern equivalents. The Sentinel had several editors after Champlin went to New York, and it finally passed out; but the Enquirer lives on forever. Mr. Hickox made it a valuable sheet in a literary way. His editorials and book reviews would have done credit to The Nation; but the average rural subscriber, doubtless, did not know that; and as an original War-Democrat his post-war Republicanism was regarded by some as not over stalwart. I well remember a review of Froude's Caesar that was a masterpiece; but all he got for it was the following skit from the Winsted Herald: "The Litch-

field Enquirer prints a two-column obituary of the late Julius Caesar. The deceased was much thought of in Litchfield". I believe that my proximity to Mr. and Mrs. Hickox, as a boy, was rather more important to me, from a purely educational point of view, than the fact that I afterward went to college. The Hickoxes were not original Litchfielders. Mr. Hickox was from Washington, and his wife was a South Carolinian. For me the intellectual center of Litchfield was in their house, next to ours on East Street, still owned by their daughter. There one could hear discussed intelligently science, religion, literature and politics. Mr. Hickox was also a fine musician; and we had at that time a very creditable musical ensemble: Dr. William Deming, first violin; Dr. Gates, viola; Mr. Hickox, 'cello; Julius Deming, double bass; to which were often added brass and wood-winds, as represented by flute and cornet. The playing of these musicians went far to form our musical taste.

Dr. Howard E. Gates was also organist of St. Michael's. He frequently went into the church to practice, and as he was prone to forget his key, he left a window unfastened that he might use it as an emergency entrance. One afternoon he proceeded to enter the church in this way, and had forced about half his body through the narrow window when he chanced to look up and saw to his astonishment that Mr. Perry stood at the reading desk, conducting evening prayer, in the presence of a numerous congregation. It was Lent, a fact that had escaped the absent-minded doctor. Dr. Gates afterward said that what chiefly riveted his attention was the face of Mrs. Perry, in the foreground, gazing at his burglarious efforts with a look of fascinated horror that he never forgot. Some kind friend sent an account of this incident to *The Police Gazette* of New York, and this classic sheet issued a full page picture of it, in which St. Michael's was expanded to about the size of St. Patrick's Cathedral and was filled with a worshipping multitude, while no feature of the method by which the doctor was gaining admittance was allowed to lack in sensationalism.

In my boyhood there was much boasting about the excellence of the Connecticut common school system, based on the fund that was the proceeds of the sale of the so-called Western Reserve in Ohio. I used to wonder why, if our free schools were so fine, we should see no local evidence of the fact. We had in Litchfield one District School, situated on West Street, and differing only in size from such rural district schools as those on South Plains and Harris Plains. Nobody went to it, who could afford a term's tuition at the Institute, whose building now forms part of the Henry R. Jones residence on North Street. My memory does not go back to the days of the Rev. James Richards, who used to throw inkstands at the boys and otherwise give way to an ungovernable temper. Mr. Richards deserves mention in this connection on account of his talented granddaughter, Mrs. Craigie, whose novels, written in London, under the pen-name of John Oliver Hobbes, are of a high

order of literary excellence and have doubtless been read by many Litchfielders who do not know the author's connection with our town.

My first memories of the Institute are of the time when it was revived after a brief period of coma by Edwin McNeill, Dr. Buel, Henry R. Coit, and others, who had large families of children and hesitated to take advantage of the Free School system, as it then was. At this period I was interested chiefly in the primary department, and Miss Sarah Bronson was my instructor.

In the 70's no one's education was considered complete in Litchfield unless he or she had studied French,—a tribute to the waning pre-eminence of that tongue in the world of polite letters. The schools taught no languages but the dead ones, so we depended on private tutors. The Frenchmen and Frenchwomen who filled this office in Litchfield formed an unbroken succession of character studies. They taught us a little French and a great deal about the characteristics of the French people.

There was little Mamselle Brun, like a small dried apple, who had rooms at Stephen Trowbridge's, where the Playhouse now stands. She said once, with a toss of her head: "What a difference zere is between Madame B. and myself! *She* is all dignity; while *I* am all grace and ease!"

Then there was old M. Laslier, noted for his frequent trans-Atlantic trips. His benevolent Litchfield friends would subscribe enough to send him to his dear Paris, where his relatives, after a brief visit, would invariably ship him back to us. His income from Litchfield students of French was not large, and it was currently reported that in his room in the Beckwith block he lived on something like an onion a day: there is no doubt about the onion, though I will not swear to the day. He was fain to eke out his income in various ways; once, for instance, by delivering a lecture on Lafayette, in what was then known as the "old church", now the moving picture palace. Dressed in solemn black he rose, before a select audience of his Litchfield friends, tiptoed to the edge of the platform, closed his eyes, and began to recite the Lord's Prayer, while his auditors did not quite know how to take it. In the course of the lecture occurred this passage: "Ab-out zees time, a gr-r-eat misfortune happen to Lafayette. He loss his gr-ran-mothair!" Loud shouts of laughter from the audience, to the amazement and disgust of the lecturer.

Of a different stamp was the debonair M. Laloux, of an age to touch the hearts of the susceptible. At the opening meeting of his first class, he divided the members into grades, and when Anna Hubbard alone was left he said genially: "Mees Hubbard, you may split yourself up anyway you like!" Laloux was anxious that his English should be both classy and up-to-date, and when his use of slang caused laughter, he would inquire in all seriousness: "Aha! Ees not zat in use in ze best circles?"

An educational institution not intended as such, but functioning on the whole in the direction of righteousness, was the County



court house, then our only temple of justice. New Milford, Falls Village and Winsted had not then arisen as rival centers. We attended many of the trials diligently. To watch a real story unfold before one's eyes, to see the actual characters and hear them tell what they had seen or experienced, and later to listen to the impassioned pleas of the opposing counsel and the calm summing up of the judge, followed by the breathless "waiting for the verdict",—all this goes far ahead of any novel I have ever read, or any play I ever saw. That at any rate, was the way we felt in the 70's. Of course the story thus unfolded was always one of crime or misdemeanor, though we took it all impersonally. The real protagonists, in our eyes, were the lawyers: the judge was too remote and chill to be regarded in that capacity. We naturally took sides with the local talent: Henry B. Graves, Edward W. Seymour, Solon B. Johnson. I was a little doubtful about Johnson, because he edited the *Sentinel*, a Democratic sheet, and I was a Republican, but his wit was something that could be matched at the Litchfield bar neither before nor since.

I well remember him in his defence of Green, an alleged wife-poisoner. He was pouring out the vials of his sarcasm on some luckless physician, who had testified that he had prescribed the application of ice for the wife, who had admittedly died of an overdose of strychnine, whether administered by her husband or not. "Once upon a time", narrated Johnson, "a workman who was tamping a blasting charge with a crowbar had the misfortune to set it off; and the bar was driven through his body, half protruding on either side. A doctor was summoned, who gave the following opinion: 'My good man, if I leave that bar there, you'll die. If I pull it out, you'll die. But I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll give you a pill that will melt it where it is!'" Johnson went on to say: "Our friend here would doubtless have prescribed—*ice*!" For such passages as these we waited, holding our breaths, while Solon B. was speaking. His basso-profundo voice and preternatural solemnity, together with his stature of about six feet three, added to the effect.

Edward W. Seymour was my Sunday School teacher and as such I revered and loved him. He was rather belligerent in court, and on one occasion when he was on a side that I had previously made up my mind was the wrong one, I was so torn between conflicting emotions that I almost resolved to frequent the halls of justice no longer. We always took sides and debated the cases among ourselves with some heat.

Politics bulked somewhat more large in our lives in the 70's than it does, I think, in those of the boys of to-day. The Civil War had recently ended, and our political ideas expressed themselves largely in military form. Why this should have been the case more in 1870 than in 1920, when a much greater war has just ended, possibly some sociologist will explain. Each political party had its semi-military marching organization, and we had ours in imitation of our elders. I recollect parading on the North Street sidewalk





JUDGE EDWARD W. SEYMOUR



MRS. EDWARD W. SEYMOUR. (Mary Floyd Tallmadge)

and shouting: "Hurrah for Hawley! Get out for English!" These being respectively the Republican and Democratic candidates for Governor. I had no doubt whatever that Joseph R. Hawley was good and that James E. English was wicked. My Democratic boy friends held precisely the opposite opinion. How much present day political feeling is any more logical? The old-fashioned election-day would have scandalized the modern Litchfielder, I am sure. We boys were allowed to make lists of the voters, as they deposited their ballots, so that the political committees could check them up; and we proudly supposed that we were performing an official function of some sort. As the day wore on, our mothers kept us indoors, for the outlying voter was bent on painting the town red before he returned to his rural home, and he often succeeded in so doing to the point of actual riot.

Just as our elections have become more orderly, so the spirit of order has spread in other directions. Litchfield has spruced up. She gives more attention to-day to the things that please the eye. In the late 60's, she was what we should now call slovenly. Her lawns were uncut, her citizens thought more of the value of an acre's crop of hay than of the pleasures of looking upon closely cropped sward. Her yards were fenced, for there were not infrequently stray animals in the streets and the Town Pound was something more than a name. By night the streets were dark, and the possession of a hand lantern or two was a necessity in every well-regulated family. Those distant lights, with their irregular motion, compounded of the lantern's own pendulum swing and the forward progress of him who held it, were familiar sights in those days. Even after Mr. Perkins' shocking innovation of lamp-posts, and even after the V. I. S. had encouraged private lights on the tree trunks, the individual lantern still retained its popularity. It is hard to realize the revolution wrought by electricity in our nocturnal habits, here and elsewhere.

In the winter we walked in the street. When we trace back the sequence of causes, we come again to the Town Pound, oddly enough. An occasional stray horse, cow, or pig, meant a fence to keep them out; a fence, when the snow flies, acts precisely like the snow-guards along the western railroad lines: it slows up the air current, which drops its burden and builds up a drift along the obstacle. These drifts were, with us, often higher than the fences, and when hard we walked on them. Cleaning off the sidewalks would have involved a continuous cut through impacted snow; hence we walked in the middle of the street, and welcomed the ox-sleds with their loads of wood, then the fashionable fuel, which broke the road for us. The Borough regulations now require the removal of snow, but the householder may thank the present infrequency of wandering beasts for the possibility of fence-removal that has made our streets like parkways and incidentally abolished the worst of the drifts.

In general, Litchfield's aspect is more colonial to-day than it was in 1870. People were proud then of the old houses, but never thought of keeping up their general effect in new constructions. We think we have an artistic sense now-a-days. Perhaps we have, but I fear that our racial history is all against it. Just now it is fashionable to be guided by artistic motives, but it is the fashion, not the art, that we obey primarily. In the Revolutionary days, it was the fashion to build houses such as the Georgian architects were building in the old country. That the motive was fashion, not an appreciation of the beautiful, is sufficiently proved by the fact that when fashion shifted to ugliness we began at once, with these colonial gems before our very eyes, to build probably the ugliest structures that the eye of man has ever rested on. We are clearing them away now; scroll-saw decoration and pseudo-gothic construction are going to the scrap heap, but that we have become incapable of similar atrocities in the future I fear to believe. We are no more original now than we were then; but we are imitating the old models, which chance, heaven be praised, to be the better ones.

So we may see in Litchfield streets to-day more good colonial architecture than we did fifty years ago, although we may also see some houses which, beautiful and costly as they may be, are not in accord with its traditions. As for our church buildings, they are all architecturally bad, and our one beautiful example of colonial work we have tucked off in a corner, where it shelters a movie show. This is the saddest thing I know about Litchfield. In the early 70's it is a fact that the old colonial buildings were covertly sneered at or regarded with amused tolerance. We felt toward them like the western visitor to the Philadelphia Exposition of '76, who, as related by the late Dr. William Deming, exclaimed to him disappointedly: "I thought they would have some up-to-date buildings; these old Greek things must be three hundred years old!"

I have said above that in winter we walked in the streets. A good snow surface, hardened by passing runners, is not a bad pavement, but it is sadly dependent on temperature. The snow turned to slush and the frozen earth to mud, in mid-street, long before the disappearance of the snow banks which buried our sidewalks. Then it was irksome to walk abroad. I have seen laboring vehicles up to the hubs, I speak literally, in soft mud, almost anywhere on North or South Streets. Not even an attempt to improve the roads with gravel was made until the 80's, and the macadam came much later. Even then we lived in flying and floating dust until the prevalence of motor traffic, only a few years ago, forced the use of oil and the preparations of tar, which though odorous and dirty in themselves have possibly contributed more to our general comfort and cleanliness than any other improvement of the last half century. These good roads, thanks to an enlightened state policy, are creeping out through the country in all directions. Fortunately for those who come among us for rest and enjoyment,



they are almost all scenic highways, as well as serving for commerce, their primary purpose. I do not know a section of the Union where one may follow the ordinary channels of communication with so great a certainty of seeing pleasing and constantly changing views.

All the things that I have mentioned, repaired, restored and cleaned buildings, shaven lawns, well lighted streets, hard, dustless roads, combine to produce on the visitor the impression of a well kept park, that old Litchfield gave in a much less degree. What is the cause of the change? Many persons would answer, wealthy summer visitors. But this does not go to the root of the matter. The change is due to a development of community feeling and civic self-respect in which the influence of the summer resident with wealth and taste has been an undoubted factor. No one can take stock of the houses on North and South Streets without seeing that the number occupied in summer only has greatly increased. Yet it is true that the civic spirit of which I have spoken began to show itself long before the increase of summer residents. It first showed itself in the Village Improvement Society, which gave us shaven lawns, street crossings, concrete sidewalks, street lights, and best of all a conviction that these things were good and a determination to have more of them. It cropped out later in the willingness of our citizens to put good money into improved railway communication, sewerage, water and lighting. Whether public or private enterprise was the immediate cause, the underlying impulse was the same, a quickened community consciousness, acting under the spur of intelligent leadership and itself reacting to raise up and stimulate new leaders. In all this, of course, the men of means and good taste who have made Litchfield their summer home have played a capital part; but it should be noted that these are very largely Litchfielders themselves, by ancestry or by long residence. This town has been fortunate in its summer visitors. Many a place has been ruined by them. Litchfield appears to be so constituted that the sort of people it does not want do not like it and would not live here under any circumstances. The exact reason for all this will bear study; a passing mention is all that we can give it here. It is surely noteworthy that without putting up the bars, without formally creating a park or a club or anything of the kind, this village has always been able to secure the citizens it wants and to exclude undesirables.

Is this tendency toward the replacement of all-year residents by summer visitors a good thing or not? That depends on what we desire for Litchfield. In Torrington or Waterbury it would be a very bad thing. Imagine, if you can, 60 per cent of the residents of an industrial town turned out of their homes to make room for semi-annual occupants! There could be no successful industrial life under such conditions. If you want Litchfield to be an industrial town, you will conclude that the change is bad for it also. Even as it is, movement in this direction may have gone far enough.

None of us, I think, would like to see every house on North and South Streets closed every winter. Permanent residential families are needed here to carry on the Litchfield social and community traditions, but without the yearly access of other citizens from without, these traditions would be more apt to grow flat, stale and unprofitable. This presupposes, of course, free social intercourse between permanent and temporary residents, and this has always been the rule unless the temporary residents are unworthy. There has never been any distinction here between visitors and townspeople. I used to be afraid of it and I remember a symptom or two in times now happily long passed. It is not altogether because Litchfield people have always been socially acceptable. They have been that of course; but I have been in old New England towns where families of as good birth, breeding and education as ours were placed in the disagreeable position of being looked down upon by persons of extremely doubtful urban antecedents, whose wealth had enabled them to create a social machine which rolled over that of the old fashioned residents as a veritable car of Juggernaut. The reason is rather that so many of our most influential summer residents have themselves been Litchfielders by birth or ancestry, that many of the houses left vacant in the winter have been old family mansions, links between the permanent society of the village and its summer social fabric. A visitor at the Hotel was heard to remark recently that she desired to attend a function at the Club House, in order "to see what a real country audience looked like". If she had done so, she would have seen a gathering composed partly of New Yorkers, and residents of other cities, and partly of those who dwell in Litchfield the year round; but I doubt if she would have been able to distinguish between them, certainly not by their long chin-whiskers and the hayseeds in their hair.

The community feeling, of which I have already spoken, has doubtless been strengthened by the very fact that so many persons have thus loved Litchfield as a community rather than any particular persons in it, or any particular locality in it. Our feeling of affection for it is rather a compound than a sum; we have the people, and the houses, and the elms, and the hills, but the resulting feeling is related to these in the same way that the properties of a chemical compound are related to those of its constituents. No one can taste in salt the chlorine or the sodium that compose it. Now the fact that so many persons have always regarded Litchfield in the community sense must have had the effect of increasing and developing community feeling in its citizens. I believe that this feeling has been and is being transmitted to the younger generation and I see no reason why it should die out, though it may be modified. It is quite evidently modified indeed by a factor that is changing the whole of modern life. I refer to the possibility of rapid transit by automobile. The motor has contracted our maps in the same proportion that it has extended our facilities. Comparing what the scientists call the hour curves of travel of a half century

ago, with those of the present, we find that the time grade of our neighborhood has been completely altered since my boyhood. Then the first hour circle, for most of us, would have passed through Bantam, about half way to Torrington, and a mile this side of East Litchfield. For those of us who had horses at command it would have lain somewhat further out. But to-day, how the lines have sprung apart! The first hour line of the automobile may pass beyond New Milford on one side and two-thirds of the way to Hartford on the other. The second may lie partly outside the State.

The result of this state of things is that for the present generation the environs of Litchfield have broadened out well over the State, overlapping and intermingling with those of many other cities and towns. We thought of Litchfield as our all; to *them* it is merely a center, a place from which to start and to which to return. Their knowledge of it is vastly more extensive than ours was; but ours was more intensive. They know how to get from Harwinton to Farmington; we knew how to walk across country to Prospect Mountain and the quickest way from Hollister's Bridge to Chestnut Hill. They know the broad topography of the country in many counties, the lay of hill ranges, the valleys and streams; we knew every path, the stones in all the brooks, almost every tree, within a narrow radius of a few miles. I do not know that either knowledge is better than the other; each differs from the other, that is all.

Their Litchfield is not quite ours; but the change here is not objective, but subjective, though it has been brought about by a material factor, the invention of machinery for rapid transportation. I see no reason why the extended Litchfield should bar out the intimate knowledge of immediate surroundings. In many cases it seems to have done so; in some few it has not, and I hope that its permanent effect will be to add to our opportunities, not simply to substitute one set for another.

In only one respect can I see that the old intimate and intensive knowledge of the country, of which I have spoken, has held its own. Our people, young and old, know the river well, between the Little Pond and the Lake. They know it better than we did. We went in row-boats from one pond to the other; they start with their flock of canoes from the canoe-house. Here is a sport into which speed cannot enter, and its continued popularity is a hopeful sign. But elsewhere, as I have said, the Speed King sits on his throne.

It is in line with our community life that we have become "socialized" in many ways unknown to our ancestors. In my boyhood, the churches were the chief social as well as religious organizations. Now we have clubs for old and young, and for both together. In my boyhood the ever present gang instinct showed itself in the formation of temporary groups, but these were unknown to our elders as well as unnoticed by them. A club to which old and young alike should belong would have been unthinkable; such

clubs indeed were unheard of anywhere in our country in that day. Their advent is an indication that everywhere, and not in Litchfield alone, we are moving in this country toward a more coherent social organization. But the existence of bodies of the kind we now have in so small a community as ours, is evidence, it would seem, that this movement has gone further and struck in deeper in Litchfield than in other places.

The opinion has been expressed that the greatest change in Litchfield is a liberalization of thought and habit, a loosening of the bonds in religion and morals, a reaction in fact from Puritanism. This is perhaps true, but it is not peculiar to Litchfield, and if we take a broad enough view we need not attach supreme importance to it. These things swing in cycles. There are always Puritans and always Cavaliers. Changes mean only that there is a slight shifting of majorities, whereby now one and now the other is in the ascendancy.

Possibly some may think that this attempt to tell of the changes in Litchfield has succeeded only in showing that it has changed very little, perhaps not at all. I shall not feel that I have failed altogether, even if this is the conclusion. Human nature is eternally the same, and its manifestations cannot vary greatly with the years. Whatever our changes have been, they are essentially human, and our lack of change is human also. Litchfielders will be men and women for many a year to come, and we may hope and expect that they will continue to be the type of men and women that have honored Litchfield in the past, the outcome of an honest and sturdy stock, shaped by an environment that they and their ancestors have loved, and that can never, we are proud to think, turn out an inferior product.



## CHAPTER XXIII.

### THE WORLD WAR.

BY FLORENCE ELIZABETH ENNIS.

It is difficult to look back upon the past few years as a "period" in our history, the events are so recent that it seems only yesterday that we were doing as a matter of course, all the things here recorded, because our one thought was that "we must win the war". The sympathy of our town was so whole-heartedly with the Allies, that from the outbreak of the war in Europe in August, 1914, we felt that we were with them spiritually in the great struggle, and it was with a deep sense of relief that we took our place beside them in 1917.

The first evidence of our sympathy for the war victims was an appeal for funds, issued by the Litchfield Red Cross Chapter on August 13, 1914, which met with a generous response. The first relief work done in our town was started by Miss E. D. Bininger, who gathered together a group of women to make garments for the wounded Belgians.

On September 5, 1914, a very successful Lawn Fete was given for the benefit of the Red Cross at Kilravock Farm, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Ripley. The fete was organized by Mrs. William Woodville Rockhill and her general committee, Mrs. John L. Buel and Mrs. Ripley. Mr. and Mrs. Rockhill had just returned to Litchfield to live, having lived abroad while Mr. Rockhill was in the diplomatic service.

The day of the fete was all that could be desired, and it was estimated that about 1,300 persons attended, many coming by automobile from distant parts of the state. The diversions furnished by the committee were varied enough, to suit all tastes, and included a Gymkhana, a ball game (which Litchfield lost to Watertown), dancing, a baby show, fortune telling, a horse race, a shooting gallery and lawn games. A special feature, which was much admired, was the charmingly arranged enclosure of the Garden Club, wherein were sold plants, flowers, seeds and garden implements.

The Litchfield Enquirer issued a souvenir edition, in honor of the occasion, emblazoned with the Red Cross emblem, which was sold on the grounds. Many new members were secured for the Red Cross. The sum of \$4,000 was sent to the Red Cross National Headquarters, \$1,600 of which represented the proceeds of the fete, and the remainder donations.

A second Lawn Fete was held a year later at Kilravock Farm, also for the benefit of the Red Cross, and was under the direction of Mrs. Ripley and Mrs. Gordon W. Burnham. Again our uncertain New England weather, which has been known to spoil the best laid plans, was on its good behavior. Besides booths for the sale of fancy articles, an excellent vaudeville performance was provided, the hit of the afternoon being a minstrel show, given by our leading citizens. A boxing match was a great attraction and was watched with absorbed attention by a surprising number of our Litchfield matrons. The Boy Scouts gave an exhibition and drill, and were as always of great assistance in many ways. A prize was awarded to the best couple in a dancing contest, and was presented by Mrs. E. H. Sothern (Julia Marlowe), our distinguished summer visitor. \$1,500 was raised for the Red Cross.

During the summer of 1916, Miss Harriet C. Abbe organized regular sessions for the making of hospital garments and surgical dressings for the Allies. When Miss Abbe left in the fall for her winter home, this work was taken over by the Litchfield Chapter of the Red Cross, under the direction of Mrs. Charles H. Coit, who served as chairman of the Production Committee from this time until June, 1919.

As the Litchfield Chapter has, like so many institutions in our town, so long and honorable a career behind it, it is necessary here to go back and briefly outline its history up to 1914. Organized in May, 1898, as Red Cross Auxiliary No. 16, our Chapter has the distinction of being the oldest Red Cross organization in Connecticut.

The Auxiliary was started for the purpose of helping the soldiers in the Spanish-American War, and produced 3,646 hospital garments, and raised \$708.10 during the summer of 1898. These amounts are interesting, as later we shall see the enormous figures which were piled up in money and output, after we had been trained to think in millions.

The Auxiliary was re-organized in October, 1900, as Auxiliary No. 5, of the American National Red Cross, which had by this time secured the protection and recognition of the United States Government for its insignia. On July 11, 1905, it was again re-organized and the Auxiliary became Sub-Division No. 1, of the Connecticut Branch. In March 1910, the Sub-Division became a full fledged chapter with jurisdiction over the entire county, and it was as the Litchfield County Chapter that we began our war work in 1914.

The Red Cross work rooms have been housed in various places. Some of the earliest meetings were held in the Town Hall. For the succeeding summers, the Lawn Club was put at the disposal of the Chapter, by the owner, Mrs. John A. Vanderpoel. The Community Center room was used for the first winter, when cold weather made the Lawn Club uninhabitable; for the following winters the Sanctum Club gave up the second floor of its club house to the workers.

In 1916 the war still raged on, and "preparedness" became the great issue. Hobart Guion, George Guion, Edward Pikosky, R. Dunscomb Sanford and Frank Barrett organized a military company, which was called the "Litchfield Rifles", and which met once a week for business and drill. Edward Pikosky, who had been a drillmaster in the United States Army, and Lieut. Robert F. Jackson, U. S. A. (retired), trained the company.

At the same time another company sprang into existence, the "Litchfield Light Horse", with thirty members, and the weekly drills under the supervision of George Guion and Edward Pikosky became quite a picturesque feature of our quiet streets. These companies were purely civic and had no connection in any way with the state or federal governments.

Litchfield's daughters believed in "preparedness" as well as her young men, and a number of them joined the Rifle Club, becoming so proficient that they were regarded as a real bulwark against the Huns, should Litchfield ever be invaded. It is perhaps well to add, that while the Rifle Club held many of its meetings for practice in the "lock-up" of the Court House, no damage was done to building or members.

Our town was well represented at both Plattsburg Officers' Reserve Camps, in 1916 and 1917, several of our young men receiving commissions.

In February 1917 came the severing of diplomatic relations with Germany, and we knew it was only a question of time when the United States would take her place with the Allies. Acting upon instructions from National Headquarters, the Litchfield Chapter of the Red Cross called a public meeting and took the necessary steps to put the chapter on a war basis.

The period which followed was a time of painful anxiety while the whole country waited for war to be declared with Germany. The state of tension which we all felt is shown by the following telegram, signed by Mrs. John L. Buel, as State Regent of the D. A. R., and about thirty men, representing all the business and professional interests of the town: "The following citizens of Litchfield, Conn., ask for positive stand for war with Germany to preserve national safety and honor"; and sent to President Wilson, Senator Frank B. Brandegee and Congressman James P. Glynn.

A state of war with Germany was declared on April 6, 1917, and the machinery for putting the nation on a war footing was set in motion. With our boys enlisting for service overseas, the older men welcomed the opportunity for patriotic service in the home town, and the Governor's call for the formation of a Connecticut State Guard (popularly known as the "Home Guard") was quickly answered. A company of 63 infantry and 18 calvary was mustered in by Captain Henry H. Saunders of Norfolk, on May 24. With the formation of the Home Guard the "Litchfield Rifles" and the "Light Horse" were disbanded.

With our entry into the war, the conservation and distribution of food became a matter of first importance. We were told that "food will win the war, don't waste it", in every mail, by every newspaper, and from every space where it was possible to hang a poster, and accordingly conservation became the order of the day. Our town clerk, George H. Hunt, received instructions from the Governor to appoint local Food Supply Committees, and thus began an era of canning. The Committee on Canning appointed by Mr. Hunt was merged with the Home Economics Committee of the Farm Bureau, Mrs. Philip P. Hubbard, chairman. A sub-committee, on Canning and Labor (an excellent title) with Miss Harriet M. Richards as chairman, worked valiantly to conserve surplus fruit and vegetables. A volunteer force was organized and canning was done for individual customers, supplies were laid in for the school lunch room, and goods were prepared for sale. The work was partly done in the school kitchen and partly in the rooms of the Farm Bureau. Miss Amy Thurston, Mrs. William S. Plumb, and many others helped to make this work the great success it was.

All the organizations in town did their bit in one way and another to help "win the war". The Garden Club gave demonstrations in the preparation of food, did much publicity work in the interests of conservation, distributed war recipes, and held sales of fruits and vegetables which might otherwise have been wasted. These "French Markets" as they were called, were held on the Green and the booth was an attractive sight.

The Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the D. A. R., cooperated heartily in all the local war work, besides carrying on the special lines of work undertaken by their organization. In the making of surgical dressings, in knitting, in food conservation, in the salvage of materials needed by the Government (such as the fruit pits which were collected for use in the manufacture of gas masks), and in the support of all the Liberty Loan Campaigns and all the numerous drives for money, the members proved themselves true daughters of those sturdy pioneers who laid the foundations of the democracy we were fighting to save.

Mrs. John L. Buel was appointed a member of the Women's Committee of the State Council of Defense, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution, and was elected first vice-president of the Committee. The chairman of the Local Committee for Litchfield was Mrs. F. A. Stoddard.

Under this Local Committee of the State Council of Defense, a splendid food show was given on April 18, 1918, in the Town Hall, to demonstrate what could be done with the substitutes we were asked to use instead of our accustomed foodstuffs. The exhibits were not only attractive to the eye, but were absolutely convincing as to the possibilities of war cookery, as each visitor was given a paper plate and spoon and allowed to discover for himself how delicious food could be, and yet be within the bounds we were asked





MRS. JOHN LAIDLAW BUEL, STATE REGENT, D. A. R.  
(Elizabeth C. Barney Buel)







CHARLES H. GOLD, CHAIRMAN, LIBERTY LOAN CAMPAIGNS



to keep by Mr. Hoover, the Food Commissioner. Brilliant posters (without the posters these years of war would have been drab indeed) set forth much useful information. In the evening lectures were given by Miss Hays of Storrs Agricultural College and by Miss Bronson of the Farm Bureau.

An all-day Victory Conference was held in Litchfield on May 8, 1918, by the State Council of Defense, under the direction of Mrs. Stoddard and her Local Committee.

The "gasless Sundays" which we were asked to observe were well respected. "Wheatless days" and "meatless days" were scrupulously kept, and most of the clubs in town gave up refreshments at their meetings, or if a cup of tea was served, all were asked to supply their own sugar. "War gardens" were the fashion, and with the great scarcity of labor a unit of the Women's Land Army, popularly known as "farmerettes", which was stationed in Litchfield, proved of real value.

The first Liberty Loan Campaign was inaugurated by a meeting of representatives of all the women's organizations in town, called by Mrs. John L. Buel, who had been appointed chairman of the Women's Committee for the Loan. Plans were made to canvass the town, and a mass meeting arranged for June 10, 1917. At this public meeting, which was held in the Congregational church, on Sunday afternoon, Charles H. Coit, chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee explained the business side of the Loan, and patriotic speeches were made by Rev. Frank J. Goodwin, D.D. and Mrs. Goodwin.

The district covered by the Committee for this Loan was Litchfield, Morris, Bethlehem, Washington, Warren, and Goshen; and the total subscriptions were \$69,050.

The second Liberty Loan was tremendously helped by the rally held on October 25, 1917, which was planned and carried out by Edward H. Sothern. \$155,000 had been subscribed before the Rally, and the amount subscribed at the meeting was \$98,750. The program consisted of patriotic music, recitations by both Mr. and Mrs. Sothern, and the reading of the Honor Roll of those Litchfield boys who were in the service of the country.

The district covered by the second Loan was the same as the first, a quota was given of \$146,000; and total amount subscribed was \$305,450.

The special feature of the third Liberty Loan Campaign was a patriotic rally held at Colonial Hall, April 8, 1918, with Judge Robert W. Munger as the speaker of the occasion. The singing was led by Thomas F. Ryan.

Bantam held its own rally for this Loan, under the direction of Winfield Scott Rogers and Miss Nellie M. Scott; and the occasion was a great success.

For the third Loan the district was changed to the town of Litchfield, the quota was \$150,500; and the amount subscribed, \$217,-

750, shows that our town had gone "over the top" again. It is a matter of pride, that as far as is known, Litchfield has never failed to fill, and more than fill, the quotas which have been set for her, in any of the many drives.

Litchfield was awarded an Honor flag for this Loan and an interesting celebration marked the raising of the flag. There were several four-minute speeches, Mr. Rogers being the first speaker in honor of Bantam's splendid record. The flag was raised by Miss Nellie M. Scott of Bantam, assisted by Mr. Coit. The assistance was so vigorous that the rope was pulled out, leaving Old Glory flying at the top of the pole with only one halyard. Louis J. Goodman Jr. came to the rescue, "shinnied" up the pole, and brought down the flag. The exercises then proceeded according to schedule.

A "community sing" was held on the Green on Saturday, September 29, 1918, at noon, at the request of the New England Liberty Loan Committee, to mark the official opening of the fourth Loan. The singing was led by Judge Ryan, assisted by Albert J. Hausmann, bugler.

The district for the fourth Loan was again the town of Litchfield, the quota was \$315,000, and the amount subscribed \$437,000.

The Victory Loan in May, 1919, was not marked by any special features. House to house canvassing by the women of the town was done for all five Loans, and the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts helped greatly in the campaigns.

For the fifth or Victory Loan the district remained the town of Litchfield, the quota was \$237,000, and the amount raised \$297,300.

The first Red Cross War Fund Drive for \$100,000,000 followed immediately after the first Liberty Loan campaign, and was held the week of June 18-25, 1917. John H. Lancaster was appointed chairman of the drive. The territory covered by the Chapter was in a state of re-adjustment, and in April, 1917, the word "County" had been dropped from the name as it no longer applied, many sections of the jurisdiction formerly covered having left the Chapter. The quota for the Litchfield Chapter was \$15,000, and the total amount collected was \$26,076.53.

The second War Fund Drive held by the Red Cross for a second fund of \$100,000,000 was held in May 1918. By this time the territory covered by the Litchfield Chapter was thoroughly organized and was hard at work answering the ever increasing orders for more and more output. The quota was again \$15,000 and the sum of \$34,433.75 was raised. Twenty five per cent. of this amount was retained by the Chapter for the work in surgical dressings.

The work of the Red Cross increased enormously with our entrance into the war. To Mrs. Coit, as chairman of the Production Committee, to Mrs. Charles N. Warner, supervisor of knitting and refugee garments; to Mrs. John Dove, supervisor of hospital garments; and to their faithful workers is due the credit for the production of 242,578 surgical dressings, 5,953 knitted articles, 3,734

hospital garments, 2,407 refugee garments from October 1916 to October 1919. The Junior Red Cross, under the leadership of Mrs. William J. Dykes, produced 3,447 refugee garments in addition to those mentioned above.

With the increasing war work the clerical work of the Chapter became so heavy that a central office was a necessity. While the Executive Committee was still looking in vain for office room, Judge Ryan generously offered the use of a room in his building, which was supplied with all the equipment needed, such as typewriter, telephone, etc. The offer was gratefully accepted, and the executive secretary held regular office hours from August 1918 till the following June. The room is still occupied by the Chapter.

These were days of much public speaking, there was so much that the people needed to know about, and so much that they were expected to do, when it had been told to them. The Litchfield War Bureau and the Litchfield Grange arranged a patriotic rally for February 28, 1918, and Prof. Charles M. Bakewell of Yale University told us from his personal experiences something of the real nature of our enemy. This was one of the finest war talks heard in Litchfield, and the occasion was also memorable by the dedication of the Grange Service flag with its seven stars.

With our joining the Allies, the display of Old Glory became almost universal, and nearly every house carried the colors. As our boys departed to help "make the world safe for democracy", another flag began to be seen. This, the "service flag", hung in the window and indicated by the blue star on the red-bordered white field that a member of the household had left it for the country's service. More than one house in our town bore a service flag with three stars on it. Each church had its flag showing the number of its young men who were in the army or navy.

On April 27, 1918, through the generosity of one of our residents, the people of Litchfield were given the privilege of hearing the soldier-poet, John Masefield, talk on "The War and the Future". No one who heard Mr. Masefield will ever forget the quiet way in which he gave picture after picture of the war in all its horror, and when the tension seemed more than one could bear, lightened it with a flash of the characteristic humor of the Tommies. After his lecture Mr. Masefield read some of his poems. No admission was charged, Mr. Masefield turning over his fee to the Red Cross.

A second lecture was given by Mr. Masefield on July 30, under the auspices of the Historical Society, for the benefit of the Red Cross.

A campaign for the sale of War Saving Stamps, beginning June 28, 1918, was conducted by Thomas F. Ryan, Chairman of Litchfield township. A thorough canvass was made and pledges were secured from 2,656 adults over 14 years of age, covering purchases of \$8,330 par value of stamps, and minimum pledges of \$21,395 more during the coming year. The quota of 88 per cent.



reached in Litchfield was the highest recorded anywhere in the state, in respect to the total number of registrations, making Litchfield the banner town.

In order to finish the account of the drives held in Litchfield, we will jump to November 1918, and the campaign for funds held by the seven war relief agencies, and known as the United War Work Campaign. When the Red Cross first asked for \$100,000,000 it seemed as if the high water mark in giving had been set, but the seven agencies, combining in one drive, asked for the sum of \$250,000,000 to complete their war obligations. The seven agencies were the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, the Jewish Welfare Association, the War Camp Community Service, the American Library Association and the Salvation Army. In spite of the fact that the Armistice had just been signed, with the inevitable let-down of enthusiasm for war work, the quota of \$11,250 was exceeded; the sum raised amounting to \$11,491.45.

During the preceding summer, Mrs. L. P. Bissell had collected by means of a "Crucible", articles and jewelry of gold and silver. The contents of the Crucible was sold for the sum of \$200 and the money given to the War Camp Community Service fund.

Rev. William J. Brewster was the chairman of the Near-East Drive, 1919, the quota was \$4,600 and \$5,867.33 was subscribed.

Besides these drives which have been described in detail, numerous lesser drives were held, such as the three membership drives of the Red Cross; the two clothing drives for the sufferers in Europe; a "Linen Shower" for the French hospitals; a drive for associate members for the Boy Scouts; the same for the Girl Scouts; for the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A.; for books and magazines for the soldiers; so that scarcely a week passed without an opportunity to show one's generosity and patriotism.

In all that was done to "keep the home fires burning" it must be understood that the school children did their full share. Through the Junior Red Cross and through the general war work of the town, they were brought into direct contact with the great needs of the time, and responded as our future citizens should.

The task of collecting and preserving the history of the Litchfield men who served in the great war, will be done by the two posts of the American Legion, which have been formed in Bantam and in Litchfield. There has not been time since the return of the men and the formation of the Posts to do more than make a beginning of this work. At the present writing, one of our men, Robert K. Munroe, is still with the engineers at Coblenz.

With the exception of one group of men who served together in the 102nd Infantry the Litchfield boys were scattered through the forces, and were in many different branches of the service. Lieut. T. A. Langford, in the Marines, was wounded twice and saw much heavy fighting. Among those in the aviation section, were Allan Trumbull, Alexis Doster, Henry L. Page, James Kirwin,



Edward P. Heath. Those who served as medical officers were Dr. Charles H. Turkington, Dr. Charles I. Page, Jr., Dr. Nelson Lloyd Deming, and Dr. John E. Keller. Dr. William Champion Deming, a former Litchfield man, also served in the war.

During the summer of 1917 the Selective Draft had been put in operation, William T. Marsh serving on the Board. The first six men left for Camp Devens at Ayer, Massachusetts, on September 9. From time to time other groups left, and were wished God-speed by those who gathered to see them off, many of whom went with the boys to Torrington, where they entrained. The Red Cross saw that the men were supplied with knitted comforts and gave them a farewell supper before they left. A Smoke Club was organized by the business men of the town to supply the boys with tobacco.

With our men in the training camps, on the high seas, and in the trenches, the State Council of Defense made an appeal that our celebration of the Fourth in 1918, should be not only "safe and sane", but of such a character that all the elements of the community would be drawn together in a common observance of the day. The committee in charge decided upon an old-fashioned picnic, and invited the people of Morris, Goshen and Bethlehem to join us. The day started with a fine parade in which many organizations of the town were represented and a special feature was made of the floats, prizes being given for the best.

After the parade all gathered on the Green, hunted up the lost members of their party and settled under the shade of the trees to enjoy a picnic lunch. As the people sat together in this "folksy" way, the thought of the boys with the colors made an undercurrent of sympathy and neighborliness.

After the lunch the exercises were held in the West Park, the Hon. Porter H. Dale of Vermont making the address. The usual Fourth-of-July thunder shower lent a touch of excitement to the day.

Of those who went from Litchfield, some had already at this time made the supreme sacrifice for their country. There were in all ten service flags in our town, which were entitled to change the blue star for the gold star of honor.

The first man to give his life was Howard C. Sherry, who died of pneumonia at Camp Johnston, Florida, on January 16, 1918. Robert P. Jeffries died of the same disease on January 20, at Camp Gordon, Georgia. A military funeral was held for Howard Sherry at the Methodist church, and on the following day, a similar service was held at St. Paul's church in Bantam, where Robert Jeffries had lived. The Home Guard and a delegation from the Red Cross attended both services.

Corporal Frank A. Morgan, Co. M., 102 Reg., was the first man to enlist from Litchfield. Twice rejected because of underweight, he did not give up, and was able to enter the service when the weight limit was lowered. The first to volunteer, Morgan was the

first man to lay down his life in battle. His mother, Mrs. G. Durand Merriman received the following letter, giving the circumstances of his death: "Your son, Corporal Frank A. Morgan was killed June 20, 1918, near Mandres in the Toul sector. He was killed by the concussion of a shell; even though he died instantly, there was not a mark on him. . . . When we first went into the line he acted as a runner between the platoon and company headquarters and did his work so well that I proposed his name to the company commander as one to be made corporal at the first opportunity, and I am sure that had he lived he would have continued to win promotions. He is buried in an American Military Cemetery and the flag he fought for floats over his grave, while by his side are comrades who with him have paid the supreme price".

A letter which Corporal Morgan wrote to his mother expresses the splendid spirit with which our forces met their baptism of fire.

"Somewhere in France.

My dearest beloved Mother:

Well I have not written to anyone now for a week but it seems like a month. We will be in our rest camp in a few days so I'll write a nice long letter. Just received three letters from you and you know I always love to hear from home and Mother. Also got a letter from Chas. I am sitting outside writing this letter and several of the fellows are doing the same. It has been a "perfect day". Saw some nice flower gardens here and pansy beds. Summer comes early. We have also had some nice air raids today. One German plane was brought down burning. Air raids are as regular as the clocks in most parts of France. But they never do any harm. It is pastime for us to lay on the ground and watch them dip and duck around in the sky.

You have probably heard by this time that the 102nd made a good showing on the line. We will show the enemy what it is to provoke the "Stars and Stripes". Now I can tell you that I've been in the first line trenches, face to face with Fritz. The first time we were in for five days, then we came out for five and went in again. The first time we didn't lose a man. But the second time we had our first experience with gas. We went in with 230 men but returned with a few less. Of course we mourn the loss of our comrades. But you need not worry about me for I'm safe with the company. You know what Sherman said? Well you can promise the world I said he was right. You know it will mean business this summer. But we want summer to come anyway and have it over. I would like to be sitting under the old apple tree this summer, but I will next year believe me. You tell everybody I say this is Fritz's last try and it is bound to fail. . . . Glad you are all well and happy and there's no reason why you shouldn't be for I am.

Well I can't write much more as it is getting late, lights out at nine o'clock. And whatever you do don't worry about me. May

God protect me till we meet again for I'm sure we will. Write soon and often to your loving son,

FRANK A. MORGAN"

Thomas F. Weir and his brother James were privates in the same regiment, the 102nd. Thomas Weir gives the following account of the action in which his brother was killed: "At the start of the Chateau Thierry drive they went over the top at 5:30 A. M. and went into woods the other side of the starting position. They relieved the Marines, with Marines on left and French on right; the position was in a horse shoe. The company went ahead and had to wait for the French. They went back and went ahead again without barrage. Co. H. was in the 2nd battalion. Enemy artillery fire was very heavy, 2nd battalion in support, 3rd battalion ahead and 1st in reserve. The company was in open field kneeling down in close formation, a German big shell came over and landed 200 yards away. A piece landed beside the two Weir boys and hit James between the eyes. Roy Hotchkiss helped to carry out and bandage James, who was taken to the 103rd Field Hospital at La Ferte and buried there".

In a letter written by James Weir to the Smoke Club, he shows that he too had that "old New England spirit all right".

"Co. H., 102nd U. S. Inf.  
March 29, 1918.

Smoke Club of Litchfield:

As I have a few minutes I want to write and thank the people of Litchfield for their smokes, as I must say they are more than appreciated. I don't know what I would have done without them, not only the cigarettes, but the Enquirer also.

I am glad to be able to say we have been in the trenches for a long time and you can tell all the boys I will be home for that Labor Day parade, as the boys are all in trim and ready for anything that comes up. They have that old New England spirit all right. This is said to be the best regiment in France, bar none. Not so bad for the boys from Connecticut. We are all feeling fine and waiting patiently for a shot at the Kaiser, and not a bit afraid of their old Springfields, when they say we are doing our bit, too. It is rather a ticklish job, but the boys don't mind it in the least.

You can imagine the shrapnel bursting over head and big shells whizzing on all sides of us. We just laugh and watch to see if we can see them going through the air. We have had many close calls. One old six inch shell dropped about four feet from me, but it was my luck it was dead and didn't go off, so I made up my mind I was going home when it didn't get me that time. . . .

The boys from home are all fine—Tom and Matt Brennan, Matt Hotchkiss, Howard Brown and all the rest of the boys. Trusting all my Litchfield friends are in the best of health and thanking you again for the cigarettes, I remain as ever,

JAMES WEIR"



Private August Guinchi of the Coast Artillery 56th Regiment died of typhoid fever on October 31, 1918, resulting from the effects of gas. Private Guinchi was gassed while driving a tank. He is buried in the American Battle Area Cemetery at Langres, Department of Haute-Marne.

Another victim of disease, Clayton A. Devines, died of Spanish Influenza in camp at Jacksonville, Florida. A memorial service was held at the Congregational church on December 1, 1918.

Joseph Donohue was a Junior Republic boy who served with the 102nd, Co. D., and was killed in action on July 23, 1918.

Roy E. Cornwell who died on shipboard en route to France, had lived in Litchfield for some time and had been a member of the Home Guard. He enlisted from Elizaville, N. Y., the home of his father, but as he had been so identified with Litchfield he is included in our list of those who lost their lives in the war.

Henry Cattey was a Northfield boy, who lived in the Marsh district. He was killed in action, but it has not been possible to obtain details of his death.

Pio Zavotti, like August Guinchi, an Italian, but an American when his adopted country needed him, is supposed to have been killed in action. He had lived in Litchfield for several years and worked at the Ripley farm, and gave Litchfield as his address when he went into the army.

About fifty former citizens of the Junior Republic were with the American Expeditionary Forces. Those who died in action and are not included in the ten from Litchfield, as they had their homes elsewhere, are: Timothy O'Connor, Norman Stein, and Roger Wilson. Lieutenant Timothy O'Connor, Co. M., 108th Infantry, had many friends in Litchfield who will be proud of the gallantry of his death. He was cited for bravery, in the following words: "2nd Lieut. Timothy O'Connor (deceased) for great personal courage and inspiring qualities of leadership while in command of his company. Even after being mortally wounded, this officer's last words were for the men to continue their attack. This was in the battle of La Salle River, France, October 17, 1918".

We have now to record the honors earned by one of our men, who, happily, recovered from his wounds. Lieut. Joseph R. Busk was cited on June 20, 1918, in these words: "The following action of 2nd Lieut. J. R. Busk, Inf. R. A. 38th Infantry, is mentioned as deserving particular commendation as showing the determined effort of this officer to accomplish at all hazards a mission on which he had been sent: On the night of June 16-17, 1918, this officer was designated to cross the Marne River with a patrol for the purpose of capturing and bringing back a prisoner, by surprising any of the enemy who were moving; he had not accomplished the mission after having waited until almost daylight; when he boldly entered a wood supposed to be occupied by the enemy, where he encountered a hostile detachment which fired on his patrol and severely wounded



him". Lieut. Busk was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for "Extraordinary heroism in action east of Chateau Thierry, France, June 17, 1918. Despite the coldness of the water, the swiftness of the current, and the presence of the enemy on the opposite bank, Lieut. Busk completed a personal reconnaissance of the enemy's position by swimming the River Marne, after which he took a patrol across the river in boats and obtained valuable information regarding the movements of the enemy".

Lieut. Busk was further honored by King Albert I, of Belgium, who conferred upon him the Ordre de la Couronne, with the rank of "chevalier".

Charles A. Whitbeck, a driver in Bat. D., 12th Field Artillery, 2nd Div., saw 21 months 15 days of active service and was in most of the engagements at Chateau Thierry, Soissons, Champagne, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne. Whitbeck was with the army of occupation which marched into Germany, and spent the winter there. At Soissons on July 21, 1918, Battery D. was between the 2nd and 3rd line backing up the French, 1st Moroccan Division. The position was on low ground and was observed by the Germans from a high hill. A big barrage was placed on the battery and they had to retire, leaving the guns. Volunteers were asked for, two cannoneers and two drivers, including Whitbeck, were chosen. The Major of the battalion led them in, and one piece and caisson were rescued.

On May 27, 1919, Whitbeck received the Croix de Guerre with silver star. The citation, translated into English, is as follows: "Upon the approval of the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in France, the Marshal of France, Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the East, recommends by order of the Division: Private Charles A. Whitbeck, Battery D, 12th Field Artillery, 2nd Division: On July 21, 1918, near Vierzy, in the face of a violent bombardment, he attached a gun-limber to a disabled field-piece, so that this field-piece could be drawn to the rear".

James Kirwin, who enlisted in the regular army and was assigned to the 126th Aero Supply Squadron, was on the *Tuscania* when she was torpedoed. For some time it was not known in Litchfield that he was among the survivors. Sergt. Kirwin gives this account of his experience: "The morning of February 5, the order for life belts was given. At the time the convoy was in the North Channel off the Irish coast, the position of the *Tuscania* was central, the other ships forming a circle around her. About 5:30 the order came, 'troops up on D deck'. At 5:30 there was a terrible shock, not so much of an explosion, as of a dull blow. The ship seemed to jump high in the air, and hang there quivering for a time before it fell back into the water, where it bobbed about very much like a cork and with a decided list to starboard. The lights went out at the time of the explosion and the darkness seemed shot with tongues of fire. The atmosphere seemed dense with a strong odor

like that of burning celluloid. I had been assigned to No. 9 boat, but when I reached that station I found both 7 and 9 stations had been blown away, as the torpedo struck directly beneath them.

"Everyone answered a call for volunteers to launch boats. The men were taken off 7 and 9 stations and for the next two hours were on the hurricane deck, launching the boats, the last of which that could be cast off were lowered at 8:15; and there were still one thousand men on board.

"The water was full of men, some swimming, but many of them dead or dying. We had about resigned ourselves to going down with the ship, the men were singing, 'Where do we go from here, boys', when word was passed to go down on B deck. Of course we hurried more than is usual in the army. Three destroyers had returned and had taken off everyone except those who had been on the boat deck. The cry was 'slide down the rope and keep your eyes up'. After I reached the destroyer I looked over the side and saw those who didn't make her. I shall always be sorry I didn't obey orders".

Kirwin was landed at Buncrana Island, Ireland, suffering with concussion and was cared for by the British troops stationed there.

It is not possible to give an account of the other Litchfield men who saw active service overseas. George H. Hunt, the Town Clerk, has recorded all the discharge papers which have been turned in to him, but those on file represent only a small part of the number who went from Litchfield, and the work of the Post Historians has only just begun.

During those terrible years before we went into the war, when America was pouring our her wealth to help suffering Europe, her young men and women were seeking opportunities for personal service in the hospitals and in the camps of the Allies.

Three of our Litchfield men did ambulance work in France, afterwards serving in the A. E. F.: Guy H. Richards with the American Ambulance Service; Elmore McNeill Bostwick and Frederick W. Busk with the Norton-Harjes Ambulance Section No. 5, which was decorated by the French Government.

Rejected on physical grounds by the U. S. A., du Val Allen joined the Norton-Harjes Ambulance Section No. 646, which was attached to the famous French "Blue Devils" and to the Moroccan Division. Allen was hit on the head by a piece of shell and rendered unconscious for several hours, contracting pneumonia from the exposure, and also narrowly escaped death in a bombed hospital. Section No. 646 was honored four times by the French Government, receiving the Croix de Guerre and the Medaille Militaire.

Shepherd Knapp, formerly of Litchfield, now a clergyman at Worcester, Mass., spent a year in France under the Y. M. C. A., for six months of this time being stationed at Aix-les-Bains, the famous

resort, which was turned into a "rest-place" for the American troops, and re-christened by the men, "Aches and Pains".

Archibald M. Richards also gave his services to the Y. M. C. A. and was stationed at Paris for over a year, as assistant manager of the hotel run by the "Y" for its secretaries.

In 1916, Willard Parker Lindley spent several months in France assisting the work for blinded soldiers, under Miss Winifred Holt.

The Litchfield women who served in the war, enlisted under our own Government, were Marion Crutch and Elsie Koser, army nurses; Mildred McNeill, reconstruction aid; and Irene Crutch, Mae Brahen, Clare Brennan and Evelyn Deacon, yeowomen. Elizabeth W. McNeill was employed as a Civil Service stenographer in the Army.

The women who did war work overseas were: Cecil Cunningham (now Mrs. Alexis Doster), who served for six months as an auxiliary nurse in the French hospitals; and Amy Richardson Thurston and Frances Elliot Hickox, who were Y. M. C. A. canteen workers, their duties including many activities from scrub woman in the kitchen to cashier in the hut. Miss Hickox remained in France until after the Armistice, and chaperoned a group of brides, who had been married to American soldiers, on her return trip to this country.

The false report on November 7, 1918 that the Germans had signed the Armistice, which caused so many premature celebrations all over the country, did not gain credit in Litchfield, thanks to the editor of the Litchfield Enquirer, who pinned his faith to the Associated Press. At three o'clock on the morning of November 11, the Torrington factory whistles were heard blowing, and the news quickly spread that "Der Tag" had come at last. The Court House bell gave the local signal and soon all the church bells joined in, ringing out the tidings in a perfect medley of noise.

The firemen manned the chemical engine, and started out on a procession all over the Borough, a crowd quickly gathered, and soon about 200 men, women and children were in line, headed by the Stars and Stripes. They marched down South Street, and at the invitation of the rector, Mr. Brewster, into St. Michael's church, where the people with deep emotion, sang together the Doxology and the national anthem, and gave thanks with grateful hearts that the long terrible years of conflict were ended at last.

Out again on the Green, a bonfire was built, and while it was burning brightly impromptu speeches were made. The day dawned, soft and mellow, as a November day sometimes is. About seven o'clock there was a little let up for breakfast, but the bells never quite ceased ringing. The dignified village of Litchfield had a dishevelled look on that morning, very unlike its usual trim appearance. Papers, confetti, the remnants of the bonfire littered the center and plainly showed that the town had been up all night celebrating.

Refreshed by breakfast, every one who could get there, hastened



to Bantam to join the parade. A band, provided by the forethought of W. S. Rogers led the procession, which included about sixty automobiles. Another pause came for the noon-day meal, then came the Litchfield parade, in which Bantam joined. The marchers were headed by Frank H. Turkington, and the Home Guard, the D. A. R., the Red Cross, the fire departments, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, the service flag of St. Anthony's carried by young women, and many automobiles were in line, a coffin dedicated to the Kaiser was a special feature.

Litchfield's enthusiasm did not spend itself with these demonstrations, but finished the day with a patriotic "sing" on the Green in the evening, patriotic speeches and an appeal for the United War Work Campaign, which was then in progress.

The Armistice was signed, but we soon found that we must "carry on" a while longer. Red Cross work was revised to meet the needs of the destitute people of Europe, and, rejoicing that surgical dressings were no longer necessary, the workers put their energies into the making of refugee garments and refugee knitting. The Home Service Section, under Dr. John L. Buel, was to continue its work until the very last man had solved his difficulties and been re-adjusted to civilian life again.

Week after week, some khaki-clad man would appear in the streets, to be surrounded at once by people anxious to shake his hand, and to compliment him on his splendid physical condition. Celebrations occurred, quite spontaneous in character, in the form of bonfires and bell ringings, as the men returned from overseas. It was felt that these individual celebrations were not enough, and that the whole town should join in welcoming home the men, and in some permanent form express its appreciation for their services in the war. Accordingly the chairman of the War Bureau, George C. Woodruff, appointed a committee to make plans for such a ceremony, and for a permanent memorial to our men.

It was decided to celebrate the coming Fourth of July as "Welcome Home Day" and to erect a monument on the Green, bearing on a bronze tablet the names of those who served in the war.

The celebration really began with the bonfire in the center, on the 3rd of July, at midnight, following a custom which dates back more than half a century. When the morning of the Fourth came, it proved to be one of those days of which Litchfield is occasionally guilty, when the temperature registers in the nineties; but because the day was given over to honoring those who had endured so much, everyone felt ashamed to complain of mere weather.

The great feature of the day was the parade, which was headed by First Selectman Patrick C. Burke, Warden George C. Ives, Burgesses Charles Biglow, Dr. C. N. Warner and W. S. Plumb in an automobile. The veterans of the Civil War followed. Then came

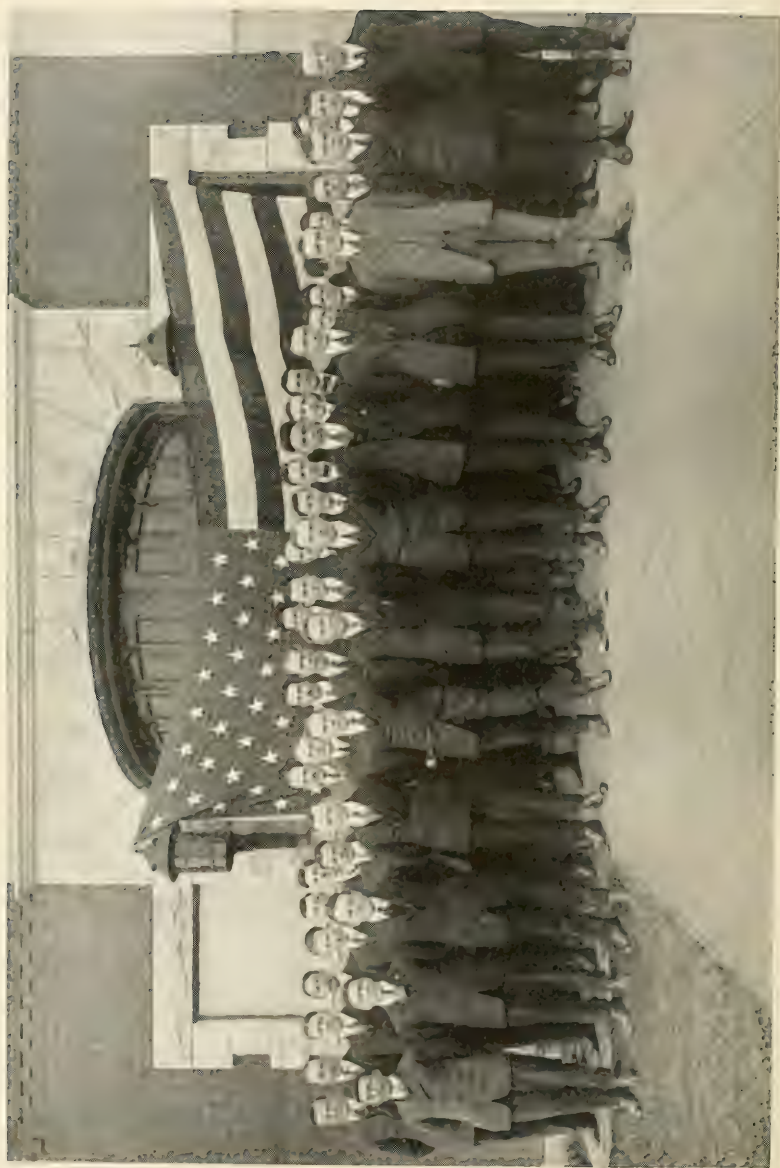




DR. JOHN LAIDLAW BUEL







THE MORGAN-WIER POST, AMERICAN LEGION



Major Robert F. Jackson, Marshall, and his aids, preceding the men in khaki, whom we were honoring. They were 80 strong, and represented both army and navy. The Boy Scouts acted as escort. Then followed delegations and floats from all the local organizations; the Red Cross, the Knights of Columbus, St. Anthony's T. A. & B., the Fire Department, the Grange, and many others.

After the parade came the picnic lunch under the trees, following the plan of the previous year. The soldiers were provided with an ample lunch in the West Park.

In the early afternoon the program of the day was given, with Admiral Colvocoresses presiding. Mrs. E. H. Sothern recited with deep feeling the splendid words of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, and the address was made by Dr. Talcott Williams, Dean of the Columbia School of Journalism. The great moment of the day came when the Memorial Monument was unveiled. Instead of a formal speech of dedication, E. H. Sothern read Alan Seeger's Ode to American soldiers fallen in France, which had been written for the celebration of our Fourth by the city of Paris in 1916, by which time the poet had already added his life to those he commemorated. The American flag was taken from the monument by the selectmen in reverent silence, followed by a prayer of dedication by Dr. H. G. Mendenhall. The ceremony was concluded by the singing of America.

The monument which is erected on the center Green, diagonally across from the Court House, is of granite, six feet high; and bears a bronze tablet 45 by 35 inches, with 168 names, ten with the gold star of supreme sacrifice. Above the names is this inscription:

"In Honor of  
The Men of Litchfield  
Who Rendered Service In  
The World War  
1917-1919"

Below the names: "This Tablet is erected by the Town of Litchfield".

The home coming celebration closed with a dance for the soldiers in the Lawn Club.

Two Posts of the American Legion, which is an organization of veterans of the World War, have been formed in our town: the Morgan-Weir Post named in honor of the first two men to be killed in action, and in Bantam, a post named in honor of Robert P. Jeffries.

The story of our town during these years of war, may fittingly close with mention of the ceremonies held on Washington's Birthday, 1920, at Colonial Hall, under the auspices of the Morgan-Weir Post, for the distribution of Certificates issued by the French Government to the families of those Americans who died in the war.

On the certificates is an engraving of the monument erected by the French to the memory of our dead. Inscribed on the monument are the words of Victor Hugo:

“For those who devoutly died for their country

It is right that the people come and pray at their tombs”,

and it was in a spirit of devotion and reverence that the people of Litchfield gathered together for this service in their memory.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### MODERN LITCHFIELD.

BY DOROTHY BULL.

A subscriber to *Punch* once wrote in complaint to the editor, "*Punch* is not what it once was". "My dear fellow", the editor replied, "it never has been". The story is a consolation to the writer of modern history. Forms of life are forever changing, the forces of life remain much the same, and persist with amazing vigor through periods of dearth and disaster.

Litchfield's position in the life of the nation has greatly changed since the days of the Revolution. The development of the manufacturing industries of the East, the opening up of the resources of the West, have shifted the centres of national activity. Yet the town is in no sense the empty shell of past tradition. It is a vigorous self-respecting community, making a worthy contribution to the continuity and strength of American character. In common with most other American towns, it has changed in the past sixty years from a homogeneous community, in which the dominant factor was Anglo-Saxon, to a community in which nearly every nation of Europe and some of Asia are represented. In this fact are both opportunity and danger. In so far as the little towns can assimilate the foreign elements of their population, and maintain wholesome American traditions and standards of living, so far will the nation grow in unity and strength.

The recent war has shown us beyond doubt that the American "melting pot" does not always melt. But it has also shown us how strong and how sincere have been the pledges of loyalty given by innumerable adopted sons. It remains for the native born to keep alive and bright his altar fires, that the immigrant may know at what shrine he worships.

In times of national crisis, national ideals and the good and evil forces of national life appear clear cut and vivid. In the years of peace the greater issues are hidden in the pleasant haze of a fruitful summer; but it is in the slow process of these years that the national character takes shape for good or ill.

What of Litchfield in the long years of peace following the Civil War? It is too soon to estimate the lasting qualities of those years; but in the brief survey possible here, we may gain some understanding of the character of the people and the dominant

elements of the community life. These elements for the past sixty years may be roughly divided under five heads: The physical character and climate of the region; the agricultural interest; the summer colony; the nineteenth century immigrant; and the growth of community spirit.

The influence of climate on national character is too intricate a subject to be discussed here. Its influence on the occupation and resources of Litchfield people is evident throughout their history. It does not seem to have changed much during the period of which we write. In the records of the local papers every third or fourth winter is a winter of intense cold and heavy snows. On occasion there are tumultuous freshets in the spring and autumn, carrying away roads and bridges and flooding low lying meadows. In the summer there are violent thunder storms, with curious electrical freaks and an aftermath of burning barns. Between these cataclysms of nature stretch long days of golden beauty. The beauty of the country, the clear freshness of the upland air, have attracted to Litchfield the summer visitors, who have contributed much to the material prosperity of the town and not a little to the richness of its tradition. As Dr. Bostwick has pointed out, Litchfield has been peculiarly fortunate in having as summer residents people who were already attached to her by natural ties of inheritance or sentiment.

It is of course the physical character and climate also, which determine the agricultural interests of the community and the direction they take. These interests are on the whole the most stable in the community life, and while the farms have frequently changed hands and markets have shifted, agriculture still remains the dominant interest of the town. Immediately after the war there existed a flourishing Agricultural Society, and a horse show and fairs were held on the ground at the lower end of South Street. In 1889, the Grange was founded, and has ever since been a source of education to the community as well as a natural centre of social enjoyment for people engaged in kindred pursuits. The Harvest Festivals of the last twenty years, with their exhibits of fruit and flowers, and the prizes offered to children in the schools for the best arrangement of wild flowers, have all contributed to the benefit of the community; and the masquerades and dramatics have increased good fellowship.

Besides the numerous small farms in the township, there have been a number of large enterprises, backed by considerable capital and able to experiment with thoroughbred stock and scientific horticulture. The first of these was Echo Farm, on Chestnut Hill, bought by F. Ratchford Starr in 1873 and developed as a dairy farm with thoroughbred Alderney and Jersey cattle. Starr was the first man to introduce into America the bottling of milk for shipment and distribution. There were shipping stations at Bantam and Lake, as well as at Litchfield; and in 1881, four thousand



quarts were shipped daily from these three stations. In 1886 the management of this farm was placed in the hands of The Echo Farm Company. It was later abandoned and in 1910 was bought by H. S. Chase, of Waterbury, and now furnishes the Chase Rolling Mills in that town with milk for their operatives. Other large farms have in the past twenty years made a specialty of choice fruit and vegetables or thoroughbred cattle. The sight of Dr. Buel's Red Devon bull going to the Danbury fair is one not easily forgotten; and it is not long since North Street was familiar with the sight of four little girls, each mounted on a Welsh pony of the Fernwood breed, followed by a groom and the smallest of possible colts.

Despite the advent of the automobile, there have always been in Litchfield lovers of horses; but in the eighties and nineties horses were a ruling passion. Trotting races with sleighs on North Street were popular in the winter, and in the heyday of the summer season there was a fashionable driving hour from four until seven in the afternoon. Favorite drives in the eighties were to the towers on Mohawk and Ivy Mountains, from which there were beautiful views. Here cabins had been built with historical relics to attract the curious, and refreshments were on sale for hungry youth. The Enquirer gives us a list of the stables kept in 1891; from which we quote:

#### J. Deming Perkins

"The Lindens"—Mrs. Perkins' health does not permit her often to avail of the facilities which the stables at this place possess, but her daughter Miss Edith, thoroughly enjoys driving her pair of brown cobs, "Derby" and "Ascot", which she handles with perfect skill, before her Brewster cart. We noticed a brown roadster "Barney", in one of the commodious stalls. Livery, dark blue, drab and silver. The stables at this place are most conveniently arranged, being finished in Georgia pine and black walnut. Peter Matthews has charge of the establishment. A straw mat made by the dexterous fingers of Peter, with a border representing the national colors stretches across the stable immediately in the rear of the iron latticed stalls, the turned locust posts being finished with "pelicans" in Old Country style.

#### Sydney Dillon

President Union Pacific Road, "Vaill Cottage"—Mr. Dillon of late years has become so attached to Litchfield that he gives a large portion of his summer to it. He is fond of a good horse, and we notice likes to drive a different pair each day. Sometimes it is his large team of dapple grays, with their fine knee action; again he will be seen with his coal black pair, with their splendid flowing tails, the animals alike as two peas, and not infrequently with his light stepping cross match, a black and bay. Livery, dark blue and silver.

#### J. Mason Hoppin

New Haven—We can scarcely remember ever having seen Mason Hoppin on foot except on the occasion when he covered himself with glory in the baseball match between the married and single men. Not only morning

and afternoon, but also in the evening he is on the drive with some one of his three horses. He is seen on the road rigged either single, double or tandem, but he is in best form when driving his dapple grays, "Dick" and "Tim", to his Brewster buggy. Peter Scanlan attends to details here.

#### J. Warren Goddard

New York, "Fernwood"—This stable, the building itself of granite and a model of convenience, contains a large number and variety of fine carriages and horses, perhaps the most stylish turnout among them being Mr. Goddard's dog cart, hung very high, to which he drives his tandem team, "Paris" with "Vim" in the lead, and trained to work there, with which he easily rattles off eight miles an hour over the hills. Mourning livery.

#### Henry W. Buel, M. D.

Spring Hill—The doctor for many years has raised his own driving horses, which he has rare facilities for doing on the extensive acres which comprise his estate. Individually he works his favorite yellow bay. His daughters, however, drive to a neat phaeton some one or other of the numerous fine animals in the stables. Frederick Trall has for many years had control of the stables.

#### Mrs. John H. Hubbard

This lady, the widow of our late Congressman, can be seen of a pleasant afternoon on our thoroughfares driving a quiet bay. Her son, John T., the lawyer, indulges his taste for horseflesh in the line of the Morgan breed, of which he possesses several fine specimens of growing stock.

#### Archibald B. Duffie

New York—Mr. Duffie, who is exceedingly fond of horseflesh, has quartered at Pratt's stable, in charge of Jim Malloy, four magnificent animals—a pair of dark bays, a blooded Kentuckian and a sorrel. His stylish turnouts are almost daily seen on our thoroughfares.

#### Newcomb C. Barney

New York, "Uplands"—So fine a place as this must needs have a good stable. Mrs. Barney's carriage is not often seen in the village, but Miss Barney's neat cart is a daily ornament on the grounds of the Lawn Club. Livery, blue and silver.

#### Mrs. Henry B. Coit

Since the removal of her son, Mr. Chas. H. Coit, to Hartford, where he has entered the firm of Geo. P. Bissell & Co., we have missed him upon our roads. His sister, Miss Katie, however, thoroughly enjoys a drive behind her favorite bay.

#### Mrs. J. William Wheeler

New York, "Belair"—Park phaeton, mahogany bays. Miss Wheeler drives a pony (rumble) phaeton, drawn by a handsome sorrel pony. Mourning livery.

#### Henry R. Jones

Brooklyn, N. Y., "Sunnymead"—A pair of dark bays with flowing tails to a light summer carriage. Mr. Jones, however, is most frequently seen driving in his favorite natural wood buckboard, to which he works a most serviceable roadster.

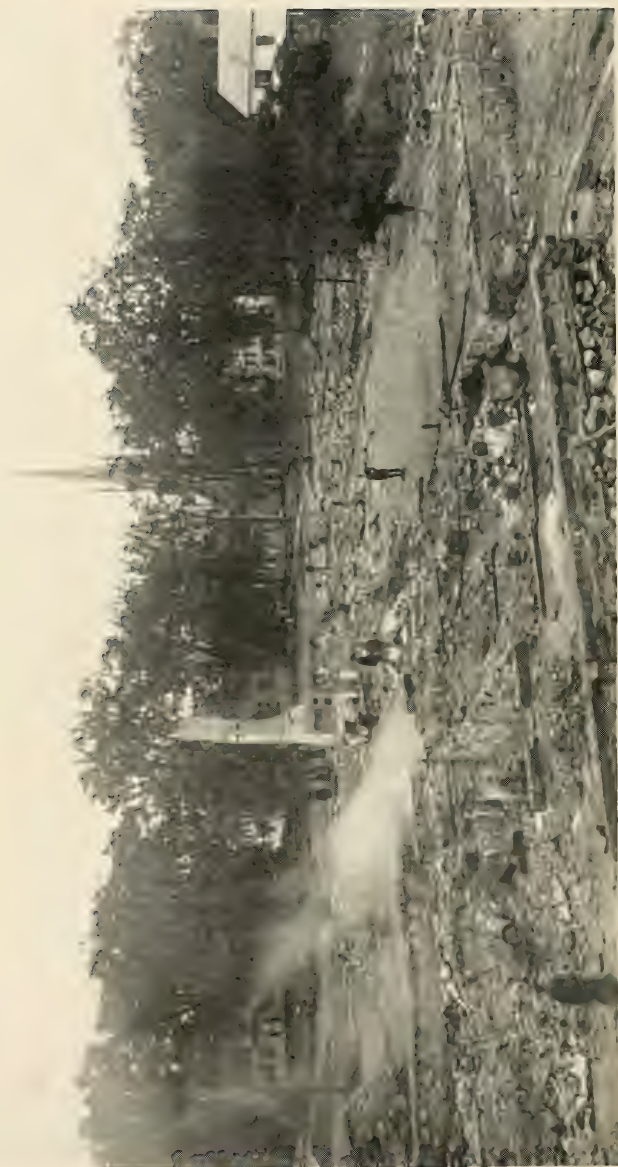


FREDERICK DEMING, Esq.









AFTER THE FIRE, JUNE 11, 1886

**Mrs. William H. Maxwell**

New York, "Kenmore"—Mrs. Maxwell's stables contain several horses, but her favorite pair is a cross match, a bay and a gray.

**Frederick Deming**

At this place we found a steady-going family horse, and also a good-grained saddle pony, on which his son takes daily exercise.

**Mrs. William Curtis Noyes**

New York—Mrs. Noyes is very regular in her drives, seldom omitting an afternoon. Her daughter, Mrs. Vanderpoel, is occasionally seen in a high dog cart. Livery, blue and silver.

**The Misses Van Winkle**

New York—Very stylish Victoria, yellow bay cobs. Livery, blue and silver.

The above list by no means comprises all the pleasure equipments of the village, for we should have mentioned Mrs. Chas. Burrell's splendid bay, which, when before her stylish phaeton, equals any of the above named; then there is Miss Clarissa Pratt, with her black pony "Bucephalus" and Brewster buggy; Miss Clara Kenney, with her white pony and phaeton, and Mr. Jesse L. Judd, now one of our retired business men, with his large bay horse and carriage, and Mr. Chas. B. Bishop and Warden Marsh, each of whom may be seen on our driveways almost any day.

The livery business of the town is mostly done by Pratt's stables, which work seventy-three horses in the livery department, aside from the extensive sale stables attached, and Barber Bros., whose stables, though not so extensive, yield to none in quality of stock.

There were at one time three hotels in the borough and numerous boarding houses, which were well filled. Coaching parties frequently drove through, and the town must have worn an air of holiday-making, both gay and charming.

It is pleasant to think of the Victorian ladies of the sixties and seventies who played croquet or practiced archery in East Park, or in the eighties watched the four young gallants, who inspired by Mason Hoppin, endeavored to graft polo on the American stock. Canoeing also came in at this period; lawn tennis was played on private courts and a club was projected, which later developed into the Lawn Club on West Street, for many years the scene of tennis tournaments for the Connecticut state championship.

It is interesting to note the changing fashion in amusements and outdoor sports. The first velocipede came in 1869, but the bicycle fever did not reach its height until the nineties. In 1893, E. G. Trowbridge, of Torrington, is said to have ridden three hundred miles by bicycle in two days. In 1896, there were two hundred bicycles owned in Litchfield and in the following year a bicycle club was formed. Baseball of course was always popular among all the elements of the community, though it could not have been a fine art in the latter sixties, as in 1866, we find recorded a game in which the score was 77 to 16. In 1870, there existed a Tar and Gamboze Baseball Club of which four members were colored and there were at various times numerous teams in the town together

with many unorganized aspirants, so that we find in the papers many complaints of ball playing on the green.

The winter also was not without its amusements. In the seventies, they were less sophisticated than those of a later period. Spelling matches were much in vogue among the older people as well as the young ones and there were even competitions between towns. It is particularly interesting to discover that in 1883, roller skating was the popular amusement. Armory Hall was used as a rink and fancy skaters came to perform there. In 1886, a Toboggan Club was established by some of the young people of the town and a slide was built on Prospect Hill. The young people of outlying towns as far away as Woodbury shared in this sport. On one occasion, a fete was held at the slide with rockets, bombs, torches and Chinese lanterns, and supper was afterwards served at Armory Hall. Sleighing and ice skating were always popular when the season served and at various times hockey teams were organized which practiced on the Mill Pond and occasionally played matches with other organizations from neighboring towns. Skiing and snow-shoeing have also had their devotees and have sometimes been necessary by virtue of the severe weather. One of the most remarkable trips on snow shoes taken by a Litchfield man was that of Alex Baldwin in the blizzard of February, 1902. He came by train from Hartford to Terryville, on snow shoes from Terryville to Thomaston, by train to East Litchfield and on snow-shoes home.

Fishing and hunting are always open in season to the country-dweller. Football has held intermittent sway but has never claimed great popularity in Litchfield. In the early nineties, a hare and hound club was organized and herein was heralded the coming of the new woman, for "the young ladies adopted a dress which made it possible for them to cross streams and climb fences". The runs of the club were sometimes as much as eight miles. In the latter nineties, golf came in and has continued with varying popularity, to the present day. "Paper Chases" on horse-back were also popular for a brief period, in the last decade. There has always been much sociability and many clubs of various sorts have sprung into existence. Among these the Sanctum on South Street holds a distinctive place. In the nineties there was an extremely active and clever Dramatic Club, and an excellent minstrel troupe. Other dramatic entertainments have centered in the Grange, in societies of the various Churches and in sporadic benefit performances for some general interest of the moment. It is a study in modes and manners to look over the programs. In these days of "Jazz", we may sigh for the halcyon days of Pinafore; but "Curfew shall not ring tonight" is a world well lost. There were also at one time a drum corps and a band, and much interchange of hospitality with similar organizations in other towns. The singing club concerts conducted by Mr. Arthur Woodruff of Washington, in which Washington and Litchfield have united in giving concerts, have been



unique and popular entertainments for fifteen years. Dancing we have always had with us. It has passed through many phases from the waltz mania of the seventies, through the "Germans" of the eighties, the two-steps of the nineties, the fox-trots of the twentieth century. Nor has the town been wholly dependent upon its own resources for entertainment. Traveling circuses have set up their tents on the ball ground, and traveling troupes and shows have been until recently frequent visitors at Phelps' Opera House or Armory Hall. Now the ubiquitous "movie" has replaced them, both in Litchfield and Bantam.

Bantam brings us at once to the new element in Litchfield's development. It is the growth of the manufacturing industry there that has added so much in recent years to the foreign population of the township, though the Irish were, of course, the first of the "nineteenth century immigrants" to come to Litchfield in any large numbers. The building of St. Anthony's Church in 1867 shows that they were by that time a well established part of the community. From that time on, in their growing prosperity in trade, in the fairs for the church, their minstrel shows and St. Patrick's Day dances, they have made their definite contribution to the community life. In 1898, a minstrel joke was current in the town. "Where was Litchfield a hundred years ago? In Ireland, the greater part of it". In 1879 a gang of Italian laborers was employed on the Goddard farm, and about ten years later others came to work on the new water system. Whether or not any of these men remained as permanent residents, this was the beginning of further changes in the population of the town. There are now many Italians in Litchfield, contractors, laborers and operatives; and of late a number of Slavs have come to work in the factories at Bantam and in some cases on farms. There have been for many years several families of German and Scandinavian origin; the first Chinaman appeared in 1877; and there are now several Greeks. So much for the typical New England community of the twentieth century.

Dr. Bostwick has spoken of the growth of community feeling and public spirit in the last half century. It is interesting to trace it in its various manifestations.

It is natural that one of the first community enterprises after the Civil War should have been the plan to erect a suitable memorial to the dead. This monument, referred to in Chapter 21, was erected on the green in 1874. In 1894 a soldiers' monument was also erected in the West Cemetery, and later a granite "marker" was set up on Chestnut Hill to mark the site of Camp Dutton, where the men encamped before leaving for the scene of war. For many years the Seth F. Plumb Post of the Grand Army held festivals on the anniversary of Lee's surrender and suitable ceremonies on Memorial Day. As their numbers decreased the reunions on "Appomatox Day" were abandoned; and while they continued to keep Memorial Day, it was perhaps natural, that to the general public it should become merely

another holiday, so that in the same year in which the monument was erected in West Cemetery an entertainment was given on this day at which a farce was presented. About twenty years later a different feeling arose, and a Memorial Day Association was formed to plan suitable ceremonies for the day, which has recently regained its old significance.

One of the earliest enterprises after the war was the Shepaug Valley Railroad. The charter was applied for in 1866, and the Town in 1868 subscribed for a block of the stock. In 1872 trains were running, but were discontinued for repairs in March. The timetable at this period scheduled trains to leave Litchfield at 8:30 and arrive at Hawleyville at 11:30, at which point they connected with the Housatonic Railroad. The length of the journey, however, does not seem to have disturbed the patrons of the new road, for in 1879 excursions to Coney Island by boat from Bridgeport were popular. In these days of motors the glory of the railroads has faded, but in 1894 the "parlor car" run for the summer passenger service, is glowingly described in the *Enquirer*. Its woodwork was of quartered oak, its upholstery a "beautiful light blue". Litchfield never knew the intermediate stage of rapid transit between the steam railroad and the automobile. Agitation for a trolley connection from Torrington or the towns further south to Bantam Lake occurred frequently; but the project was always defeated. With the coming of the cheap automobile we are made safe from such an invasion.

The telegraph came to Litchfield permanently in the seventies, the telephone in the eighties. The part the latter has played in knitting the community together is a large one. Not only has it made easy the neighborly visits by telephone which are possible in a rural community where wires are not perpetually busy; but it has made us increasingly conscious of ourselves as units in a group.

Of other public improvements, Dr. Bostwick has also spoken; the increased tidiness of the village, the labors of the Village Improvement Society for good walks, drainage and lighting. All these things were in good time attained through the efforts of public spirited people.

Schools have always held an important place in Litchfield life. A number of successful private institutions have existed here, but in a community of this size and character the chief interest must and should centre in the public schools. The improvement of the school system was much discussed in the eighties, and the need of a new school building in the Village. Then came the disastrous fires of 1886 and 1888. The first, beginning in the wooden buildings on South and West Streets swept westward and was stopped at a brick building thirty feet west of the Court House. With no organized Fire Department, and no water supply but the neighboring wells, the people energetically fought the fire, protecting themselves from the heat by wet umbrellas. The loss, only partially



MR. JOHN ARENT VANDERPOEL









THE WOLCOTT AND LITCHFIELD CIRCULATING LIBRARY, 1900,  
AND THE SIGN-POST ELM

covered by insurance, was about \$60,000; and (what more nearly touched the local pride) the temporary removal of the Courts. The school-house was also destroyed, so the question of a new building was settled, and the present site on East Street bought, and shortly after built upon. Temporary barracks were erected for the merchants, rebuilding was begun at once, a brick block erected and the motto was "business as usual". The new buildings had been completed only a few months when the second fire swept over the business area spared two years earlier and also destroyed the newly erected Court House.

In the following year the installation of the water system was begun, a Fire Company was organized, and in 1891 the company was assembled to test the new mains. Then Mr. Deming Perkins came as usual to the fore and presented to the Borough the use of a beautifully equipped building, to serve not only as a shelter for the apparatus but as a club for the men. A pool room, reading room and even a hospital were provided, and the Fire Department has been ever since not only a protection to the town but a source of enjoyment to its members and to the community at large. For a number of years a weather bureau signal station was also maintained at this building and the weather flags were familiar to the people of the town. Pool matches, bowling contests, parades and entertainments have originated there, and it is even claimed that the exchange of hospitality with New Milford's Hose Company did much to alleviate the slight tension caused by rival claims of the towns concerned to the honor of being the County Seat. A few years ago the efficiency of the Department was further increased by the gift of a motor chemical engine, presented by Mrs. Godfrey and Miss Coe.

In 1862 a reading room had been established in the town with a membership fee of \$5.00 a year. This was called the Litchfield Library Association, but when Mr. J. Huntington Wolcott, of Boston, father of Governor Roger Wolcott, generously contributed \$300. for the purchase of books, the name was changed to the Wolcott Library Association. The Wolcott family's interest in the library was manifested also by other generous gifts at various times. In 1870 a circulating library was started independently, with a handful of books. In 1881, through the courtesy of Mr. George C. Woodruff, the two libraries were sheltered under a common roof in two rooms of "the brick building" on South Street. Ten years later the present commodious library building was planned and presented to these associations by Mr. John A. Vanderpoel, as a memorial to his grandmother, Mrs. William Curtis Noyes. He did not live to see it finished. In 1903, the two libraries were merged under the name of The Wolcott and Litchfield Circulating Library Association. Since that time Miss Katharine Baldwin has been Librarian, and it is largely due to her judgment and faithful work that the library ranks as a model of what the public library of a small

village should be. There have been many generous gifts to the association, notably the Maghee Memorial of \$10,000. presented by Mr. William Colgate, and the Repair Fund of \$3,500, raised by Mr. Abbott Foster, who devoted much of his energy to the improvement of the library. In 1907 a wing was added to the library building by Mrs. Vanderpoel to complete the plan projected by her son. In the wing are housed the collections of the Litchfield Historical and Scientific Societies. Other societies which have contributed to the broadening of community interest are the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Men's and Women's Forums, the Garden Club and the Needle and Bobbin Club. The Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized about twenty years ago and has been active in collecting records, preserving relics of our revolutionary and colonial history, holding exhibits and aiding and abetting other organizations in undertakings to further the public good. The two Forums, founded respectively in 1910 and 1914, have served to stimulate the exchange of opinion and crystalize their common thought. The Garden Club, which is only a few years old, besides encouraging an interest in gardening, has shared in various measures for beautifying the town, and has recently become the manager of the old club on West Street, which it is to control as a Playhouse for the benefit of the community. The Needle and Bobbin Club, which is younger still, is collecting examples of the arts of the needle and bobbin, and offering prizes in the schools for skill in these arts.

Other organizations of a slightly different character contributing to the common good, are the Litchfield County Farm Bureau, and the District Nursing Association. The Farm Bureau was established in 1914. Its objects as stated in its constitution are: "to promote the development of the most profitable and permanent system of agriculture; the most wholesome and satisfactory living conditions; the highest ideals in home and community life; and a genuine interest in the farm business and rural life on the part of the boys and girls and young people". The Nursing Association was founded a few years earlier largely through the efforts of Miss Harriet M. Richards. In 1914 it affiliated with the Public Health Service of the Red Cross. It has done much excellent work in disseminating information, providing relief and instituting medical inspection in the schools; and it supports a nurse who does public health nursing throughout the township at a very moderate fee. When Mrs. Philip Hubbard and Miss Adelaide Deming organized the Domestic Science classes in the school, the Nursing Association cooperated with them to make possible the hot school luncheon for the children. When the influenza epidemic struck Litchfield in the autumn of 1918, Miss Richards, ably seconded by her colleagues in the association, secured permission to use the new Country Club as a hospital, borrowed beds and bedding, secured extra nurses, and concentrated there the patients, who otherwise would have been scat-





REAR-ADMIRAL GEORGE P. COLVOCORESSES. (Retired)







CRUCIFIXION DAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1899



tered about the township, inadequately cared for, because of the sheer physical difficulties of the situation. On this occasion Miss Miriam Hubbard did yeoman service by supplementing the inadequate kitchen of the club, cooking food daily at home and sending it to the hospital, while many other people contributed their services in numerous ways. In the days before America's entry into the war and the direction of all energies to war service, the association also stood sponsor for a "Community Centre", at which numerous classes were conducted by a number of volunteer workers. This activity ceased when war was declared.

Through the good will of some of her residents, Litchfield has also been a centre for welfare enterprises of a general nature. In 1900, Miss Mary Buel left her property on the Goshen road to the organization now known as the Connecticut Junior Republic. Originally a branch of the institution at Freeville, N. Y., the Connecticut Republic has thriven and prospered through the interest and generosity of its friends. The object of the Republic is to train boys for citizenship through the practise of self-government under wise supervision. Litchfield people have always been interested in the Republic and there is a Litchfield Aid which contributes to its support. The students of the summer camp of the Columbia School of Mines at Bantam Lake have for a number of years given entertainments at Litchfield for its benefit; and there have been notable private contributions. Among these are the excellent and attractive buildings erected in 1916-1917, for which Mr. Cass Gilbert contributed the plans, and the expenses of building were met by Mr. William Colgate and Mr. Roswell P. Angier of New Haven.

We have spoken of the years between the Civil and European Wars as fifty years of peace. They were however broken by the brief excitement and passing anxiety of the war with Spain. The Red Cross was of course active in relief. The number of Litchfield men in military service is not accurately known. Gail Beckwith and Edward Wilson enlisted. Daniel Hine and James O'Rourke were with the regulars. Harold and George Colvocoresses served. Major Wessells who distinguished himself at Santiago, was of Litchfield parentage. But the chief pride of Litchfield in the war was the distinguished service of Admiral—then Lieutenant-Commander—George P. Colvocoresses, who was executive officer of the Concord at Manila Bay. He was later transferred to the Olympia and returned to America with Admiral Dewey in the autumn of 1899. His return to Litchfield was a gala occasion for the town. The people presented him with a sword, and though he had made the request that the ceremonies might be "as simple as possible", the town held high holiday. Houses were gay with flags and bunting, salutes were fired, there was a bonfire, a parade and appropriate speeches;

and in the evening serenades by the band, illuminations and fireworks. A memorial oak was planted by the Admiral with a silver trowel, ordered for the occasion by Miss Mary P. Quincy.

In the course of sixty years many people have come and gone in Litchfield; new houses have been built and old ones altered and restored, and many have changed hands. Of all the houses built in this time none perhaps was more picturesquely begun than that of Miss Mary Quincy, for which the corner stone was laid with ceremony, and beneath which is buried a box containing family papers and heirlooms.

Of the people who lived in the houses it is difficult for the present writer to speak. There are many people now living in the town who knew and loved them, and to whom the distinguished men and gracious women and all the undistinguished eager life of the time is not something written in a book, but a keen and vivid memory. Yet here and there in the printed word we find some glimpse of the living spirit. When Deming Perkins died "all the bells tolled for him". A friend of Mrs. Noyes wrote, "The roses in her garden and every good cause will miss her". Against the background of changing events we see in the records of the day, the distinguished figures of George C. Woodruff, Judge Origen S. Seymour, Judge Edward W. Seymour, Governor Charles B. Andrews and the winning personality of Dr. Henry Buel. Those of us fortunate enough to remember Mrs. Edward Seymour dancing the "first dance" in a room full of young people, will long delight in that memory of grace and distinction. Nor shall we forget the delicate vivacity of Mrs. Storrs Seymour or Dr. Seymour's unaffected kindness. Old age in Litchfield is a gracious thing and many people have lived in vigor beyond the four score years allotted. Golden weddings have been frequent. In the Woodruff and Seymour families there were six such anniversaries between 1879 and 1919. The first was that of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Woodruff. Mrs. Woodruff was the sister of Judge Origen S. Seymour and Mrs. Seymour of Mr. Woodruff. In 1880 Judge and Mrs. Seymour kept their anniversary. In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. George M. Woodruff celebrated theirs; in the following year Dr. and Mrs. Storrs O. Seymour; in 1913, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Woodruff and in 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Morris W. Seymour.

Greek legend tells us that there were once two old people, true lovers, to whom the gods were kind, and when they had come to old age they were turned into trees, to bear winter and summer together and shelter forever the home they had loved. It is far from Litchfield Hill to the slopes of Parnassus. Yet in Litchfield, also, the trees bear witness to the spirit of the men who were here before us, who planted the young saplings and dreamed of beauty.

The two hundred years of Litchfield's history are only an eddy



HON. MORRIS W. SEYMOUR









THE SEYMOUR HOUSE, 1807. (Morris W. Seymour)

in the wind that blows down the years. What our time shall add to that record is as yet uncertain. Yet human life is forever a miracle. Our lives are touched by the spirits of the past,

“And the joy we felt will be a part of the glory  
In the lover’s kiss that makes the old couple’s story”.





# APPENDIX

BY

FLORENCE ELIZABETH ENNIS

ETHEL M. SMITH

assisted by

ELIZABETH K. COIT



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## A. HONOR ROLL.

## 1. Last French War.

The following names are copied from "A Pay-Roll for Capt. Archibald McNeile's Company, in the Second Regiment of Connecticut Forces, for the year 1762", which is on file in the Secretary's Office, Hartford. It is not to be inferred that *all* the members of Captain McNeil's company belonged in Litchfield. Some in the list are recognized as residents of neighboring towns.

Archibald McNeil, Capt.	Eli Emons
Isaac Moss, 1st Lieut.	Alexander Waugh
Increase Moseley, 2nd Lieut.	Orange Stoddard
Elisha Blinn, Ensign	Ezekiel Shepard
Thomas Catlin, Sergt.	Ozias Hurlbut
Nathaniel Taylor, Sergt.	Daniel Harris
Bezaleel Beebe, Sergt.	John Collins
Hezekiah Lee, Sergt.	Solomon Palmer
Archibald McNeil Jr., Sergt.	Jonathan Smith.
Roger Catlin, Corp.	Jonathan Phelps
William Drinkwater, Corp.	John Cogswell
Nathan Stoddard, Corp.	Mark Kenney
James Lassly, Corp.	Aaron Thrall
Daniel Barnes, Drummer	Timothy Brown
Jacob Bartholomew, Drummer	Roswell Dart
Charles Richards	William Bulford
Samuel Warner	James Manville
Samuel Gipson	Benjamin Bissell
Joseph Jones	David Nichols
John Barrett	Ichabod Squire
John Barrett Jr.	Comfort Jackson
William Forster	Elisha Walker
Francis Mazuzan	Amos Broughton
Thomas Wedge	Nathaniel Lewis
Reuben Smith	Levi Bonny
Jeremiah Osborn	Thomas Barker
Benjamin Landon	Samuel Drinkwater
Isaac Osborn	Asahel Gray
Robert Coe	Eliakim Gibbs
Adam Mott	Samuel Peet
Asahel Hinman	Ephraim Smedley
Roswell Fuller	Edmund Hawes
Daniel Grant	Silas Tucker
William Emons	Robert Bell
Moses Stoddard	Thomas Sherwood
Gideon Smith	Ephraim Knapp
Hezakiah Leach	Titus Tyler
Adam Hurlbut	Thomas Williams
Jeremiah Harris	Justus Seelye

James Francier  
George Peet  
Nathaniel Barnum  
Adonijah Roice  
Elisha Ingraham  
Daniel Hurlbut  
Ebenezer Blackman  
Domini Douglas  
Amos Tolls

Thomas Ranny  
Daniel Hamilton  
Asahel Hodge  
Daniel Warner  
Titus Tolls  
John Ripner  
Caleb Nichols  
John Fryer  
Ebenezer Pickett

## 2. War of the Revolution, 1775-1783.

The following list is taken from the Honor Roll of Litchfield County Revolutionary Soldiers, published in 1912 by the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter, D. A. R., under the editorship of Miss Josephine Ellis Richards. The authorities for the service of each man will be found in that monumental work, and are therefore not repeated here. The various cemeteries in the township where certain of the men are known to have been buried have been added. These names have been obtained since the publication of the Honor Roll, by another committee of the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter, of which Miss Cornelia Buxton Smith was the chairman. The abbreviations are as follows: B. for Bantam, E. for East, F. for Footville, H. for Headquarters, M. for Milton, Mo. for Morris, N. for Northfield, W. for West.

\*Lived elsewhere at the time of the war; †Prison Ship Martyr;  
‡Prison Ship Survivor.

Adams, Col. Andrew (W)  
Africa, Cash  
Agard, Hezekiah  
Alcock, Giles  
\*Allen, Gen. Ethan  
\*Allen, Heman  
Allen, John (E)  
†Allen, Nathaniel  
Aston, Sergt. Elida  
Atwell, Oliver  
Bacon, Ebenezer  
Bacon, Nathaniel  
Baldwin, Abner  
Baldwin, Ashbel (Mo.)  
Baldwin, Isaac (E)  
Baldwin, James (E)  
Baldwin, Samuel W.  
Barns, Ambrose  
Barns, Amos  
Barns, Benjamin  
Barns, Daniel

Barns, Sergt. Enos (F)  
Barns, Enos 2d  
Barns, Enos 3d  
Barns, Moses  
Barns, Orange (F)  
Bates, Ephraim  
Batterson, Stephen  
\*Beach, Barnias  
Beach, Maj. Miles  
Beach, Miles  
†Beach, Noah (W)  
Beach, Wait  
Beach, Zophar  
Beebe, Col. Bezaleel (W)  
Beecher, Burr (N)  
Bend, John  
Benton, Belah  
Benton, Nathaniel (W)  
Bill, Elijah  
Bingham, Ozias  
Birge, Benjamin (H)

- Birge, Beriah (H)  
 Birge, James (M)  
 Bishop, Luman  
 Bissell, Archelaus (W)  
 Bissell, Benjamin Sr. (W)  
 Bissell, Sergt. Benjamin  
 Bissell, Calvin (W)  
 Bissell, John (M)  
 Bissell, Luther (W)  
 †Bissell, Zebulon (W)  
 Blake, Richard  
 Blakesley, Samuel (N)  
 Bottom, John  
 Bradley, Aaron (E)  
 Bradley, Capt. Abraham  
 \*Bradley, Daniel (E)  
 \*Bradley, Capt. Phineas  
 Bricks, John (Breck)  
 Bristol, Isaac  
 Brown, Joseph  
 \*Buel, Asahel  
 Buel, Isaac  
 Buel, Jonathan  
 Buel, Salmon (W)  
 Buel, Solomon (W)  
 Buell, Lieut. Peter (E)  
 Bull, Lieut. Aaron  
 Bull, Asa (W)  
 Bull, George  
 Burnham, Asa  
 Burnham, Wolcott  
 Burr, Aaron  
 Byer, Return  
 Canfield, Abial  
 \*Camp, Abel (Mo.)  
 Camp, Eldred  
 \*Camp, Ezra (Mo.)  
 Catlin, Abel  
 Catlin, Capt. Alexander  
 Catlin, Ashbel  
 Catlin, Bradley  
 Catlin, David  
 Catlin, Capt. Eli  
 Catlin, George  
 Catlin, Isaac (M)  
 Catlin, Phineas  
 Catlin, Putnam  
 Catlin, Samuel  
 Catlin, Capt. Theodore  
 Catlin, Lieut. Thomas Jr. (E)  
 Catlin, Uriah (N)  
 Chamberlin, William  
 Champion, Rev. Judah (E)  
 Chase, Sergt. Lot (W)  
 Churchill, Oliver  
 \*Clark, Abel (Mo.)  
 Cleaveland, Diah (Dyer)  
 Clemmonds, Abijah  
 Cluff, Isaac (Clough)  
 Coe, Levi (W)  
 Coe, Zachariah  
 Collens, Charles (Mo.)  
 \*Collins, Cyprian  
 Columbus, James  
 Colyer, Joseph  
 Cone, Lieut. Abner  
 Cook, Oliver  
 Cowl, John  
 Cramton, Elon (E)  
 Crampton, Lieut. James (Cram-  
 ton) (E)  
 Crampton, Lieut. Neri  
 Craw, Reuben  
 Crosby, Simon  
 Culver, Abel  
 Culver, Ashbel (Asabel)  
 Culver, Reuben  
 \*Culver, Solomon  
 Curtis, Zarah  
 Davis, Samuel  
 \*Dear, George 2nd  
 \*Deming, Julius (E)  
 Dennison, Chauncey (H)  
 De Wolf, Levi (Mo.)  
 Dickinson, Friend  
 Dickinson, Oliver (M)  
 Dixon, George  
 Douglas, Col. William  
 Emmonds, Arrings  
 Emons, A. (Abner or Arthur)  
 (Mo.)  
 Emons, Isaac  
 Emons, Phineas (Mo.)  
 Emons, William  
 Fancher, Rufus  
 Farnam, Corp. John (Mo.)

- Farnam, Seth (Mo.)  
 Fitch, Ebenezer  
 Foote, Capt. Aaron  
 Fox, Aaron  
 Frost, Joel  
 Galpin, Amos (W)  
 Garnsey, Noah, (Guernsey) (N)  
 \*Gatta, John I.  
 \*Gay, Lieut. Col. Ebenezer  
 \*Gay, Col. Fisher  
 Gibbs, Aaron  
 Gibbs, Lieut. Benjamin (Mo.)  
 Gibbs, Eliakim  
 †Gibbs, Gershom  
 Gibbs, Gershom Jr.  
 †Gibbs, Isaac  
 Gibbs, Ithamar  
 Gibbs, Lemuel (Mo.)  
 Gibbs, Moore (More, Moah) (M)  
 Gibbs, Oliver  
 Gibbs, Remembrance  
 Gibbs, Simeon  
 Gibbs, Solomon (W)  
 Gibbs, Sergt. Spencer  
 Gibbs, Timothy  
 \*Gibbs, Trumpeter Truman  
 \*Gibbs, Capt. Wareham  
 Gibbs, William  
 Gibbs, William Jr.  
 Gibbs, Zadok (Zadock)  
 Gibbs, Zebulon  
 Gilbert, Asa  
 Gilbert, Sergt. Joseph  
 Guilbert, Abner (Gilbert)  
 Gillett, Asa  
 Gillett, Sergt. John  
 Gillett, Othniel  
 Goff, Joseph  
 Goodrich, William  
 \*Goodwin, Jesse  
 Goodwin, Sergt. Joseph  
 Goodwin, Capt. Nathaniel (Mo.)  
 Goodwin, Sergt. Nathaniel Jr. (Mo.)  
 Goodwin, Ensign Ozias (W)  
 †Goodwin, Phineas  
 Goodwin, Solomon  
 Goodwin, Uri (Mo.)  
 Goodwin, Corp. William  
 Goslee, Solomon (B)  
 Gould, John  
 Grant, Ambrose (E)  
 Grant, Elihu  
 Grant, Isaac  
 Grant, Lieut. Jesse  
 Grant, Joel  
 \*Grant, Roswell  
 Graves, Alexander  
 Graves, Ezekiel  
 Graves, Sylvanus  
 Green, Jacob  
 Griffis, Corp. James  
 Griswold, Jacob  
 Griswold, James (W)  
 Griswold, John (M)  
 Griswold, Jonathan (F)  
 Griswold, Midian (B)  
 †Hall, Sergt. David  
 Hall, John (M)  
 Hall, William 3rd (Mo.)  
 Hamilton, George  
 Hand, Timothy  
 \*Hanks, Benjamin  
 Harrison, Daniel  
 Harrison, David (Mo.)  
 Harrison, Sergt. Elihu (Mo.)  
 Harrison, Jacob  
 Harrison, Lemuel  
 Harrison, Solomon  
 Harrison, Thomas Jr., (Mo.)  
 Hart, Tucker  
 Haskin (s), Abraham  
 Hawley, Peter  
 Hays, Elijah  
 Hays, Zenas  
 Heath, Thomas  
 Henshaw, William Jr.  
 Herick, Amos  
 Hitchcock, Abel  
 Hodgkis (Hotchkiss?), Samuel  
 Holcomb, Phineas  
 Hopkins, Harris (N)  
 Horsford, Isaac  
 \*Horton, Elisha (B)  
 Hotchkiss, Sergt. Stephen  
 Hough, Thadeus  
 \*Hunt, Russell



- Jackson, Jonathan  
 Jennings, William  
 †Johnson, Sergt. Amos (Mo.)  
 Johnson, Benjamin (B)  
 \*Johnson, Eliphalet  
 Johnson, John  
 Johnson, Rufus  
 Johnson, Zechariah  
 Jones, Lieut. Eaton (E)  
 Jones, Harris  
 Jones, Samuel  
 Judson, Jacob  
 Keeney, Mark  
 Kelcy, Peter  
 Kelley, John  
 Kent, Darius  
 Kilborn, Abraham  
 Kilborn, David (B)  
 Kilbourn, Giles (W)  
 Kilbourn, Jehiel  
 \*Kilbourn, Capt. John  
 Kilbourn, Joseph  
 Kilbourn, Roswell  
 Kilbourn, Samuel  
 King, Sergt. David  
 — Kirby, Lieut. Ephraim  
 Knapp, Sergt. Jared  
 \*Lamson, Daniel (Mo.)  
 Landen, Daniel (W)  
 Landon, Ebenezer  
 Landon, Hazia  
 Landon, James  
 Landon, Reuben  
 Landon, Seth (W)  
 Laraby, Asa  
 Laraby, Willet  
 Lerow, John, (Lerrow, Larow)  
 Lewis, Benjamin  
 Lewis, Ezekiel  
 Lewis, Capt. John  
 Lewis, Joseph  
 Lewis, Sergt. Nathaniel  
 Lewis, William  
 Linsley, Abiel  
 Linsley, Solomon  
 Linsley, Timothy  
 †Little, James  
 Little, Fifer Samuel  
 Little, William  
 Lord, Lynde (W)  
 †Lyman, John  
 Manjent, Nicholas  
 \*Mansfield, Capt. Joseph (Mo.)  
 Marsh, Capt. John (E)  
 †Marsh, Timothy  
 Marshall, Elisha  
 †Marshall, Oliver  
 Mason, Ashbel  
 Mason, Elisha (E)  
 Mason, John  
 Mason, Lieut. Jonathan  
 Mason, Joseph (N)  
 Mason, Corp. Luther  
 †Mason, Thomas —  
 Mazuzen, Mark  
 McDaniel, Anthony  
 McIntire, Henry  
 McNeil, Adam  
 McNiel, Archibald Jr. (E)  
 †McNiel, Alexander 3d (E)  
 Meleck, Ebed  
 Merrill, Nathaniel (Nathan)  
 Mix, Eli  
 Morris, Capt. James (Mo.)  
 Morris, Richard  
 Moss, Levi (Levy) (N)  
 Moss, Linos  
 Moulthrop, Moses  
 Munger, Daniel  
 Negro, George  
 Negro, Jack  
 Norton, John  
 \*Odell, William  
 Olcott, Giles  
 †Olmstead, Capt. David  
 Orton, Azariah  
 Orton, Darius  
 Orton, Eliada  
 Orton, Gideon  
 Orton, Lemuel  
 Orton, Samuel  
 Osborn, Ethan  
 Osborn, Isaac (W)  
 Osborn, Jeremiah  
 Osborn, Capt. John (W)  
 Osborne, Capt. Eliada (W)

- Owen, Thomas  
 Page, Abel  
 Page, Asa  
 Page, Daniel (M)  
 Palmer, Benjamin  
 Palmer, Chileon  
 Parmeley, Lieut. Amos  
 Parmeley, Joel (Parmelee)  
 †Parmeley, John (Parmelee)  
 †Parmeley, Solomon (Parmelee)  
 Parker, Isaac  
 Parker, Dr. Joseph (Mo.)  
 Parsons, Eliphaz (M)  
 Peck, Ashabel (Mo.)  
 Peck, Elijah  
 Peck, John Jr. (F)  
 Peck, Levi  
 Peck, Moses  
 Peck, Paul (W)  
 Peck, Philo (W)  
 Peck, Reeve  
 Phelps, Edward 3d, (E)  
 Phelps, John (E)  
 Phillips, Gideon  
 Pierce, John  
 Pilgrim, Thomas (W)  
 Plant, Stephen (W)  
 Plant, Timothy  
 Plumb (e), Ebenezer  
 Plumb, Henry  
 Pond, Beriah  
 Post, Corp. Ward  
 Potter, Joel (H)  
 Price, Paul  
 \*Ranney, Maj. Stephen  
 Ray, William (Mo.)  
 Reeve, Tapping (E)  
 Rich, Amos  
 Rich, Caesar  
 Riggs, Corp. Jeremiah  
 Roberts, Thomas  
 Robins, John  
 Rogers, Joseph  
 Ross, Simeon  
 Rosseter, Samuel  
 Russell, John  
 Royal, John  
 Sacket, Buel  
 Sales, William  
 Sanford, Jonah (Mo.)  
 Sanford, Joseph (Mo.)  
 Sanford, Moses  
 Sanford, Oliver  
 Sanford, Solomon  
 Sanford, Zaccheus  
 Seelye, Benjamin  
 Seelye, David  
 Seelye, Ebenezer  
 Seelye, John  
 Seelye, Seth  
 Seelye, Zadok  
 Seymour, Maj. Moses (E)  
 Seymour, Capt. Samuel (W)  
 \*Sheldon, Col. Elisha (W)  
 Sheldon, Thomas  
 Shelley, John (Alias Kelley)  
 Shethar, Capt. John  
 Simpson, John  
 Smith, Gen. David (E)  
 \*Smith, Ensign Eli (E)  
 Smith, Elisha  
 Smith, Henry  
 Smith, Sergt. Jacob (N)  
 Smith, John (E)  
 Smith, Jonathan Jr.  
 Smith, Joshua Jr.  
 Smith, Moses  
 Smith, Nathaniel  
 Smith, Dr. Reuben (W)  
 Smith, Stephen  
 Spencer, Ephraim (W)  
 Sperry, Enoch  
 Stanard, Samuel  
 Stanley, Earl  
 †Stanley, Timothy  
 Stanton, Capt. William  
 Stevenson, Adam  
 Stewart, Daniel  
 Stocker, Thadeus  
 †Stoddard, Aaron  
 Stoddard, Capt. Bryant (Mo.)  
 Stoddard, Lieut. David (W)  
 Stoddard, Daniel (B)  
 Stoddard, Jesse (B)  
 Stoddard, Obed  
 Stone, Benjamin

Stone, Ira	Way, Asa (N)
Stone, Jonah (B)	Way, Ira
Stone, Josiah (Alias Joseph)	Way, John
Stone, Levi	Way, Selah (Seeley)
Stone, Seth	Webster, Benjamin Jr. (E)
Stone, Sylvanus (Sylvenus) (W)	Webster, Charles
†Stone, Thomas (B)	Webster, Elijah
Strickland, David	Webster, Justus (W)
Strong, Jedediah	Webster, Michael
†Stuart, Jared (Steward)	Webster, Obed
Sweet, John	Webster, Reuben (E)
*Tallmadge, Maj. Benjamin (E)	Webster, Corp. Stephen (E)
Taylor, Benjamin	Webster, Timothy Jr. (E)
Taylor, Ebenezer	*Weed, Ezra
Taylor, Elisha (E)	Welch, Maj. David (M)
†Taylor, Joel	Welch, Lieut. John (M)
Taylor, John	Welch, John 2nd
Taylor, Moses	Wetmore, David
Taylor, Simeon	Whittlesey, Roger N. (Mo.)
Taylor, Capt. Zebulon 2nd	Wickwire, Grant (F)
Thomas, Joseph	Wilcox, Philemon
Throop, Benjamin (F)	Wolcott, Gen. Oliver (E)
Todd, Samuel	Wolcott, Oliver Jr. (E)
Tracy, Uriah	Woodcock, Sergt. Samuel
Tracy, Silas	Woodruff, Andrew
Trowbridge, Isaac	Woodruff, Baldwin
Trumbull, Ezekiel (Mo.)	Woodruff, Benjamin Jr.
Tuttle, Levi	Woodruff, Charles Jr. (Mo.)
Underwood, James	Woodruff, Jacob (Mo.)
†Vaill, Samuel	Woodruff, James (Mo.)
Vaughn, John	Woodruff, John
Vaughn, Samuel	Woodruff, Sergt. Jonah
Wadsworth, Gen. Elijah	†Woodruff, Oliver
Wadsworth, Epaphras	Woodruff, Philo
*Wallace, Nathaniel L.	Woodruff, Samuel
Wallace, Corp. Richard (E)	Woodruff, Solomon
Warren, Abijah (Ahijah)	Wooster, Ephraim
Waugh, Capt. Alexander	Wooster, Lemuel (W)
Waugh, Joseph	Wright, James
Waugh, Capt. Samuel (F)	Wright, Ensign Jonathan (M)
Waugh, Dr. Thadeus (F)	

### 3. Civil War, 1861-1865.

The following list has been prepared from the "Record of Connecticut Men in the War of the Rebellion", compiled by authority of the General Assembly and published in 1889; and from manuscript records of Dwight C. Kilbourn and of the Seth Plumb Post, G. A. R. The names of one man from the township who was dishonorably discharged and of 43 who deserted have been omitted

from this Honor Roll. The following abbreviations have been used:

\*Men who served in the 2nd Reg. Conn. Volunteers Heavy Artillery;  
 †Men killed or who died while in service; ‡Men who served in the  
 2nd Reg. Conn. Volunteers Heavy Artillery, and who were killed  
 or who died while in service.

‡Adams, Corp. Charles Jr.

Addis, Frederick A.

Allard, Joseph

Alvord, Sergt. Edgar A.

Anderson, James

\*Arnold, William

\*Atwood, George E.

\*Atwood, Josiah

\*Atwood, Minot M.

†Baker, William

†Baldwin, George W.

\*Ball, Charles H.

\*Banker, Corp. Hubert

†Banker, Philo

†Barber, Charles

†Barber, Francis E.

\*Barber, Frederick

Barber, Henry H.

†Barber, Norman B.

\*Barnes, Nelson H.

†Barse, Eliot

†Beach, Jerome B.

\*Beach, Thomas W.

Beardsley, Edson C.

\*Belden, John A.

\*Benedict, John

Benedict, William

\*Bierce, Alexander

Birge, Cornelius

\*Bissell, Leonard C.

\*Bissell, Corp. Lewis

‡Bissell, Rufus M.

\*Bissell, Capt. William

Blakeman, Corp. James

\*Blakeslee, George P.

Bluecher, George

†Booth, Corp. George F.

†Bradley, Almon B.

\*Bradley, George

\*Bradley, Hiram

\*Bradley, Musc. Joseph D.

\*Bradley, Leonard O.

†Bradshaw, William

‡Bray, Michael

‡Brooker, Andrew J.

Brown, John

Brown, William

\*Buell, Appollos W.

Bulkeley, Charles A.

†Bulkeley, William S.

Bunnell, Wagoner Albert

‡Bunnell, Corp. Franklin M.

†Bunnell, Henry H.

Burke, Corp. Michael

Buxton, Sergt. Ezekiel

\*Cable, Corp. Henry T.

Cable, Corp. William H.

†Camp, Joseph E.

‡Candee, David M.

Carter, Charles

†Castle, Charles L.

Castle, Grove E.

†Castle, Morton

†Catlin, Charles

†Chapel, Alonzo

†Clark, Corp. Sylvanus M.

Cogswell, Edward

Cohen, Isaac

Conroy, Thomas

Cook, Corp. Roger W.

†Cooley, Hiram T.

\*Cooper, Sergt. John H.

Crow, Asahel

Culver, Charles

Curtiss, Evits H.

Dains, George

Daley, John

Davidson, Ira A.

\*Davis, 2nd Lieut. Calvin L.

Davis, Sergt. William W.

Delliber, Charles W.

\*Deming, Adj. Charles J.

Deviney, Michael

†Dickinson, Thomas

†Dixon, Musc. Thomas

†Dorman, Owen



- †Dutton, 1st Lieut. Henry M.  
 \*Dwyer, Sergt. Edward  
 †Edwards, Corp. James  
 \*Farrel, Sergt. Patrick  
     Fellows, Henry M.  
 †Ferris, Smith W.  
     Fish, Charles J.  
     Fisher, Sergt. Charles C.  
     Fisher, Edward E.  
     Fisher, Corp. George F. S.  
     Flynn, George  
 †Forfe, Jacob  
     Foster, Thomas H.  
     Fuller, Corp. Granville B.  
     Gaffney, Patrick  
 \*Gibbs, Corp. Henry G.  
     Gilbert, Francis C.  
 \*Goslee, Q. M. Sergt. Charles F.  
 †Goslee, Hugh S.  
     Griswold, Edward  
 \*Griswold, Silas M.  
     Guirard, Peter  
 †Guttermann, Musc. John  
 †Hale, Walter  
 \*Hall, William J.  
     Hallock, Loren  
     Hammer, Ernst  
 †Handel, John  
     Harris, William H.  
     Hart, Joseph  
 \*Healy, Anson W.  
 \*Hempstead, Wagoner Edward S.  
 †Hempstead, 2nd Lieut. George B.  
     Herbert, Sergt. Garrett  
     Herbert, Patrick  
 \*Herbert, Thomas (On Rolls as  
     Hurlbut)  
 \*Hinsdale, Q. M. Sergt. Charles W.  
 \*Hotchkiss, Henry W.  
 †Hubbard, Horace  
 \*Hubbard, Joseph S.  
     Hull, Corp. Levi H.  
 \*Hull, William H.  
     Hurd, George H.  
 †Iffland, John  
 \*Jennings, Frederick T.  
     Johnson, John  
     Johnson, Lewis  
 †Johnson, Plumb  
 †Jones, Corp. Albert A.  
 †Karrier, Jerry (On Rolls as Jere-  
     miah Kelleher)  
 †Kearn, Jacob  
     Kelly, John  
 \*Kilbourn, 1st Lieut. Dwight C.  
 \*Kilbourn, Myron E.  
     Kinley, John M.  
     Lampman, Charles V.  
 †Lampman, Luman  
     Lampman, Corp. Robert  
     Landon, Charles M.  
     Lawrence, Morton B.  
     Linsburg, John  
 \*Malath, Peter  
     Marshall, Charles  
 \*Mason, Capt. George W.  
 \*Mason, Corp. Henry H.  
 \*Mason, Sergt. Henry W.  
 †Mason, Thomas  
     Matthews, Warren W.  
     May, Frank  
     Mayo, Henry  
 †McElroy, Henry  
     McGee, Thomas  
 †McKinley, 2nd Lieut. Thomas H.  
 \*Merriman, Charles  
 †Miller, John  
 †Minor, Henry M.  
     Moore, Charles J.  
     Moore, John  
     Moore, William  
 †Morse, Corp. Appollos C.  
     Munger, Trueworthy  
     Munson, Walter D.  
     Murray, Musc. Warren B.  
 \*Myer, Philip  
 \*Nettleton, Musc. Albert R.  
 †Newbury, Nelbert P.  
 †Newcomb, Francis A.  
 †Nichols, Jerome  
     Nichols, John P.  
     Nightingale, Frederick  
     Norris, Corp. William H.  
 \*Northrop, Rollin R.  
 †Norville, William H.

- \*Oakes, Corp. Eben L.
- O'Brien, James
- †Osborne, Sergt. Maj. Goodwin E.
- \*Parker, Frank
- Parker, Joseph H.
- †Parks, Joseph P.
- Parmalee, Cornelius
- Parmalee, Eli
- †Parmalee, Willard H.
- \*Parmalee, William K.
- †Parmalee, Watson
- Parrit, Frank
- Payne, Henry
- Peacock, Patrick
- †Peck, Albert A.
- \*Peck, Capt. Edward O.
- Perkins, Charles
- †Perkins, Edwin F.
- \*Perkins, Harvey B.
- \*Perkins, Norman B.
- Peters, James T.
- †Plumb, 2nd Lieut. Seth F.
- \*Plumb, William H.
- \*Pond, Edwin W.
- \*Pond, Ferris
- Pond, George L.
- \*Pond, Corp. Seth C.
- †Potter, Corp. George W.
- Provost, Rufus
- Redding, Thomas
- \*Reed, Chauncey F.
- \*Reed, Joseph P.
- †Richmond, Edward S.
- Rodgers, John
- Root, George
- †Ruby, Sergt. James H.
- †Ryan, Patrick
- Ryne, Corp. William
- Sanford, Sergt. Edwin B.
- \*Sanford, Theodore G.
- Schmidt, Henry
- Scoville, Ezekiel
- \*Scoville, Sergt. Harry
- \*Sedgwick, 1st Lieut. John E.
- \*Shumway, Capt. Alex. B.
- Shumway, Fred'k D.
- Smith, 1st Lieut. Edward B.
- †Smith, Lyman J. Jr.
- \*Smith, Whiting P.
- \*Smith, Sergt. William S.
- \*Spencer, Sergt. Hiram S.
- Starks, George
- †Stillson, Amos H.
- \*St. John, Jason
- Stone, Sergt. Alva
- \*Stone, 2nd Lieut. George D.
- Stone, Chaplain Hiram
- \*Sweet, Lyman E.
- Taylor, Lyman
- Taylor, Sergt. Samuel S.
- Terrill, George
- Terryl, Luther A.
- Thomas, Charles
- Thomas, Sergt. Edward O.
- †Thompkins, Enos
- Throop, Corp. Monroe
- Titus, Gilbert
- \*Tompkins, Jackson
- †Tompkins, John
- Tompkins, Ralph H.
- Tracy, Abel C.
- †Treat, Frederick W.
- Vaill, Q. M. Sergt. Joseph H.
- \*Vaill, Adj. Theodore F.
- †Volusen, Caralf
- Wade, Henry
- †Wadhams, Sergt. Edward
- †Wadhams, Henry W.
- †Wadhams, Capt. Luman
- Wakefield, William C.
- Waldron, William
- Warren, Charles
- †Watt Robert
- \*Waugh, George F.
- †Webster, Frederick B.
- \*Wedge, Corp. Curtis P.
- \*Weeks, Luther L.
- Wells, Major Frank
- Wessells, Bvt. Brig.-Gen. Henry W.
- \*Wessells, Col. Leverett (e), W.
- West, Henry G.
- \*Whaples, Sergt. Charles O.
- \*Wheeler, Charles G.
- Wheeler, George W.
- Wheeler, Q. M. Sergt. Stiles A.
- Wheeler, Musc. Walcott

\*Whiting, Corp. Seth  
 ‡Wilcox, Corp. John L.  
 \*Williams, Sergt. Henry

†Wooster, David B.  
 Yemmans, William H.

#### 4. European War, (1914), 1917-1918.

Allen, du Val  
 Allen, Paul Jr.  
 Andrews, Leslie F.  
 Axelby, Stanley  
 Axelby, William  
 Bachman, Charles I.  
 Baldwin, George H.  
 Baldwin, Robert L.  
 Baldwin, Thomas C.  
 Barrett, John F.  
 Beach, William M.  
 Beckwith, Sutherland A.  
 Bostwick, Elmore McN.  
 Brahen, Edward J.  
 Bramer, Hugo  
 Brennan, Edward A.  
 Brennan, Garrett F.  
 Brennan, Matthew E. Jr.  
 Brewster, James  
 Brown, Ernest W.  
 Buell, Carleton L.  
 Buell, John S.  
 Bull, Ludlow S.  
 Busk, Frederick W.  
 Busk, Joseph R.  
 Burke, James F.  
 Burke, John N.  
 Cameron, John  
 Campomaggi, Giovanni  
 Carlson, Gustav A.  
 Carr, Thomas  
 Catlin, James H.  
 Cattey, Henry E.\*  
 Cattey, Lucien H.  
 Clark, William B.  
 Clock, Albert W.  
 Clock, Frederick E.  
 Clock, Henry W.  
 Colvocoresses, Harold P.  
 Conroy, James E.  
 Cornwell, Roy E.\*  
 Cucchi, Eugenio  
 Cunningham, Macklin  
 Curtiss, Burdette

Curtiss, Erwin M.  
 Curtiss, Eugene F.  
 Conable, Samuel M.  
 Danielson, Caleb R.  
 Danielson, Clifford H.  
 Deacon, Arthur D.  
 Deming, Nelson L.  
 Deming, Robert C.  
 Dempsey, Charles J.  
 Devines, Clayton A.\*  
 Dickinson, Frederick G.  
 Donohue, Edward J. M.  
 Donohue, Joseph\*  
 Doster, Alexis  
 Doyle, Francis L.  
 Doyle, Lawrence F.  
 Drumm, Otto C.  
 Drury, James M.  
 Drury, John F.  
 Edwards, George L.  
 Fabbri, Albert S.  
 Fairgrieve, Robert P.  
 Farnetti, Primo  
 Finan, William J.  
 Fritz, Ernest G.  
 Fusaroli, Umberto  
 Ganung, Charles R.  
 Ganung, Clarence F.  
 Goodman, Wesley L.  
 Gugnoni, Lazaro  
 Gugnoni, Filipo  
 Guidi, Ugo  
 Guinchi, Arnold  
 Guinchi, August\*  
 Hallock, Francis J.  
 Handlowich, Daniel  
 Handlowich, Michael  
 Handlowich, Stephen  
 Harney, John M.  
 Harney, William M.  
 Harris, Charles P.  
 Harris, Thaddeus W. Jr.  
 Hatheway, Curtis R. Jr.  
 Hausmann, Joseph A.

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hayes, Michael          | Parsons, Evans C.        |
| Hazen, Ruel             | Perkins, Benjamin T.     |
| Heath, Edward P.        | Perkins, Clarence E.     |
| Higgins, Hubert A.      | Perkins, Edwin B.        |
| Higgins, Timothy F.     | Peacocke, William D.     |
| Hotchkiss, Clifford T.  | Pepper, Charles V.       |
| Hoyt, Lewis H.          | Ray, Charles M.          |
| Hunt, Philip W.         | Richards, Guy H.         |
| Jeffries, Bruce S.      | Roberg, William D.       |
| Jeffries, Robert P.*    | Robinson, Leonard G.     |
| Johnson, Edward C.      | Salocks, Andrew          |
| Johnson, Oliver H.      | Santi, Aurelio           |
| Keller, John E. Jr.     | Sassi, Colombano         |
| Kelly, Thomas J.        | Schmidhausler, Arthur    |
| Kirby, Leo F.           | Selvic, Alf              |
| Kirwin, James L.        | Sepples, Charles L.      |
| Knox, Robert J.         | Shanley, William L.      |
| Knox, Thomas J.         | Sherry, Howard C.*       |
| Koser, Henry J.         | Short, Richard A.        |
| Landon, Alva            | Slattery, John J.        |
| Landon, Robert W.       | Snyder, Edward L.        |
| Langford, Thomas A.     | Terek, Andrew V.         |
| MacDonald, Archibald A. | Tompkins, Frank L.       |
| MacDonald, Malcolm E.   | Trumbull, Allan T.       |
| Marchi, Carlo           | Turkington, Charles H.   |
| Matson, Frederick R.    | Umberti, Emelio          |
| McBride, Alphonse       | Valmoretti, Gino         |
| Meramble, Eugene W.     | Van Winkle, Edgar B. Jr. |
| Mooney, John J.         | Weik, John               |
| Mooney, William         | Weir, James V.*          |
| Moore, Clifford F.      | Weir, Frank B.           |
| Morgan, Frank A.*       | Weir, Thomas F.          |
| Morey, Charles H.       | Westerberg, Carl F.      |
| Munroe, Robert K.       | Wheeler, Clarence M.     |
| Naser, Peter F.         | Whitbeck, Charles A.     |
| Nozzioli, Frederick     | Wiggin, Frederick H.     |
| Page, Carlisle W. C.    | Wooster, Harold A.       |
| Page, Charles I. Jr.    | Young, Ivar J.           |
| Page, Henry L.          | Zavotti, Pio*            |
| Panaytatos, Peter       |                          |

\*Killed or died in service.

## B. CLERGYMEN.

### 1. Congregational Church.

#### a. Litchfield.

Timothy Collins	1723-1752	Lyman Beecher, D.D.	1810-1826
Judah Champion*	1753-1798	Daniel L. Carroll, D.D.	1827-1829
Dan Huntington	1798-1809	Laurens P. Hickok, D.D.	1829-1836



Jonathan Brace, D.D.	1838-1844	Henry M. Elliott	1870-1874
Benjamin L. Swan	1846-1856	Allan B. McLean	1875-1881
Leonard W. Bacon, D.D.	1856-1859	Charles Symington	1883-1893
George Richards	1860-1865	John Hutchins	1895-1915
William B. Clark	1866-1869	Frank J. Goodwin, D.D.	1915-

\*Became Rector Emeritus, 1798, Died 1810.

#### b. South Farms.

George Beckwith	1772-1781	James F. Warner	1833-1834
Amos Chase	1787-1814	Ralph S. Crampton	1834-1836
William R. Weeks, D.D.	1815-1816	Stephen Hubbell	1836-1837
Amos Pettingill	1816-1822	B. Y. Messenger	1837-1838
Henry Robinson	1823-1829	Richard Woodruff	1838-1841
Vernon D. Taylor	1831-1833	David L. Parmalee	1841-1859

#### c. Northfield.

Joseph Eleazer Camp	1795-1837	E. N. Tucker	1864-1866
Campbell		Hiram Gates	1866-1871
Snow		Elias Sanford, DD., LL.D.	1871-1873
Salter		S. G. W. Rankin	1873-1874
Ransome		M. J. Callan	1874-1875
Russell		William Howard	1875-1877
Mosely	1837-1844	H. Augustus Ottman	1877-1881
J. S. Dickinson	1844-1851	Edward C. Starr	1881-1887
Lewis Jessup	1851-1854	Joseph Kyte	1887-1894
Noah Coe	1854-1856	Fred Louis Grant	1895-1905
Stephen Rogers	1856-1859	Giles F. Goodenough	1907-1914
James Richards, D.D.	1859-1860	James A. McKeeman	1915-1916
Erastus Colton	1861-1864	Alexander S. Baillie	1916-1917
Wallace Humiston		1918-	

#### d. Milton.

Benjamin Judd	1802-1804	George Harrison	1854-1893
Abraham Fowler	1807-1813	Aurelian Post	1894-1895
Asahel Nettleton, D.D.	1813-	Wesley E. Page	1896-1903
Levi Smith	1825-	Joseph D. Prigmore	1904-1906
Ralph Smith	1841-1844	Pearl E. Mathias	1906-1907
John F. Norton	1844-1849	Thomas A. Williams	1908-1912
Herman L. Vaill	1849-1851	Miss M. E. Millen*	1912-1914
Francis Williams	1851-1853	Eugene Richards	1914-1919
James Noyes	1853-1854	*Missionary in charge.	

### 2. Protestant Episcopal Church.

#### a. Litchfield. St. Michael's Parish.

Solomon Palmer	1754-1763	David Butler, D.D.	1794-1799
Thomas Davies	1763-1766	Truman Marsh	1799-1829
Solomon Palmer	1766-1770	Isaac Jones*	1812-1826
James Nichols	1775-	John S. Stone, D.D.*	1826-1829
Ashbel Baldwin	1785-1793	William Lucas	1829-1832

Samuel Fuller, D.D.	1832-1837	William S. Southgate	1860-1864
William Payne, D.D.	1838-1845	William S. Perry	1864-1869
Samuel Fuller, D. D.	1845-1849	C. S. Henry, D.D.	1870-1873
Benjamin W. Stone, D.D.	1849-1851	G. M. Wilkins	1874-1879
John J. Brandegee, D.D.	1851-1854	Storrs O. Seymour, D.D.	1879-1881
Junius M. Willey	1855-1858	L. P. Bissell, D.D.	1882-1893
H. N. Hudson	1858-1860	Storrs O. Seymour, D.D.†	1893-1916

William J. Brewster 1916-

\*Associate Rector; †Became Rector Emeritus, died 1918.

#### b. Bantam and Milton. St. Paul's and Trinity Churches.

David G. Tomlinson	1831-1835	J. A. Wainwright	1860-1861
Amos Beach	1836-1837	J. D. Berry	1864-1866
Hilliard Bryant	1837-1840	William L. Peck	1866-1871
Emery M. Porter	1842-1843	Hiram Stone	1873-1903
Frederick D. Harriman	1848-1850	J. H. Jackson	1904-1905
George W. Nichols	1850-1851	John O. Ferris	1905-1908
Asa Griswold	1852-	Clarence H. Beers	1908-1912
Daniel E. Brown	1853-1857	Robert Van K. Harris	1912-1914
John R. Williams	1858-1860	Thaddeus W. Harris	1915-1918

Arthur B. Crichton 1919-

#### c. Northfield. Trinity Church.

Alexander V. Griswold	1795-1804	J. F. George*	
David Baldwin	1804-	Frank A. Sanborn*	
Russell Wheeler	1806-	William Johnson*	
Roger Searle	1807-	Fred C. Lee*	
David Welton	1808-	Edward C. Johnson*	
Frederick Holcomb	1811-1835	Edgar L. Sanford*	
William Watson	1835-1837	David L. Sanford†	1885-
Thomas W. Snow	1837-1839	Edward C. Johnson*	
Isaac H. Tuttle	1839-1840	Irving P. Johnson*	
Frederick Holcomb	1840-1845	Storrs O. Seymour†	1887-1890
Abel Ogden Jr.	1845-1846	Irving Johnson*	
Joshua D. Berry	1847-1848	William E. Hooker†	1890-
George W. Nichols	1848-1850	William H. Hutchinson*	
Ruel H. Tuttle	1850-1851	S. Wolcott Linsley*	
Asa Griswold	1851-1852	Arthur T. Parsons†	1891-1899
Frederick Holcomb	1852-1862	Anthon T. Gesner*	
William J. Pigott*	1862-1863	Arthur Gammock*	
Benjamin Eastwood	1864-	John Gammock*	
Henry C. Stowell	1865-1866	Alfred J. Nock*	
C. Collard Adams	1867-1868	Albert L. Whittaker*	
Frederick Holcomb	1869-1872	William H. Jepson*	
William Bostwick	1872-1878	George H. Buck	1900-1901
Storrs O. Seymour†	1878-1885	Adelbert P. Chapman	1901-1917
William S. Sayre*		Hamilton B. Phelps†	1918-

\*Lay Reader; †In Charge.

## 3. Methodist Episcopal Church.

## a. Litchfield.

## Circuit Preachers who served Litchfield, 1790-1844.

Samuel Wigton		James M. Smith	
Henry Christie	1790-	David Miller	
Matthias Swain		Julius Field	1822-
James Covell	1791-	Daniel Brayton	
Philip Wager		Elbert Osborne	1823-
James Coleman	1792-	Arnold Schofield	
Lemuel Smith		Elbert Osborne	1824-
Daniel Ostrander	1793-1796	Eli Barnet	
William Thacher	1797-1799	John Lovejoy	1825-1826
Aaron Hunt	1800-	E. Washburne	
Peter Moriarty	1801-1805	F. W. Sizer	
Nathan Emory		Asa Bushnell	1827-
Samuel Cochran	1806-	E. Washburne	
Aaron Hunt		Asa Bushnell	1828-
Jonathan Lyon	1807-	Bradley Silleck	
Henry Eames		Wells Wolcott	
Andrew Prindle	1808-	L. C. Cheney	1829-
Laban Clark		Bradley Silleck	
Reuben Harris	1809-1810	Milo Chamberlain	
James Coleman		David Stocking	1830-
Arnold Schofield	1811-	Luther Mead	
James Coleman		Lerman A. Sanford	1831-
B. Griffen	1812-	A. S. Hill	
W. Swazey		O. Stare	1832-1833
Gad Smith		C. W. Turner	
J. Reynolds	1813-	D. Plumb	1834-
W. Swazey		C. Chittenden	
J. Reynolds		L. Gunn	
T. Thorp	1814-	I. Abbott	1835-
Samuel Cochran		C. C. Keys	1836-
B. Hibbard		Gad N. Smith	1837-1838
J. Dayton	1815-	S. W. Scofield	1839-
Samuel Cochran		S. W. Scofield	
Cyrus Culver	1816-	Thomas Ellis	
E. P. Jacob		Jason Wells	
J. J. Matthias	1817-	S. W. Law	1840-
Datus Ensign		Francis Donnelly	
Ezekiel Canfield	1818-1819	Lewis Gunn	
Nathan Emory		S. W. Scofield	1841-
Smith Dayton	1820-	Jason Wells	
E. Washburne		Thomas Gerald	1842-
Smith Dayton	1821-	David L. Marks	1843-

## Resident Pastors.

David L. Marks	1844-	W. L. Douglas	1879-
William Dixon	1845-1846	John Cromlish	1880-1881
Joseph Henson	1847-1848	T. I. Watt	1882-1883
William B. Hoyt	1849-1850	Robert Wasson	1883-1885
Nathan C. Lewis	1851-1852	Benjamin F. Skidder	1886-1888
H. N. Weed	1853-1854	James H. Lightbourn	1889-
D. W. Lounsbury	1855-1856	David MacMullin	1890-
William Howard	1857-1858	G. C. Spencer	1891-1894
Albert Booth	1859-1860	George C. Boswell	1895-1898
Joseph Vinton	1861-1862	William H. Wakeham	1899-1900
William Lawrence	1863-1864	William W. Gillies	1901-1902
Joseph O. Munson	1865-1867	William L. Miller	1903-1904
Sylvester Smith	1868-1870	Robert W. Jones	1905-
A. P. Chapman	1871-	Ridgway F. Shinn	1906-1911
James Taylor	1872-1873	Charles S. Gray	1912-
W. S. Morrison	1874-	J. A. Swann	1913-1914
George A. Graves	1875-1876	William M. Warden	1915-1918
W. H. McAllister	1877-1878	William B. Pruner	1919-

## b. Bantam.

W. H. McMorris	1896-1899	M. Harwood	1908-1911
T. A. Wade	1899-1900	H. S. Crossett	1911-1913
D. V. Teed	1900-	B. S. Miller	1913-1915
A. H. Birch	1900-1902	A. J. W. Mowatt	1915-1917
A. R. Davies	1902-1905	E. L. Copley	1917-1919
W. I. Reed	1905-1906	Robert Thorne	1919-1920
J. B. Smith	1906-1908	H. A. Studwell	1920-

## 4. Baptist Church.

## a. Bantam Falls.

Jackson G. Ganun	1857-1862	E. B. Elms	1891-1896
C. N. Potter	1863-1867	G. D. Reid	1903-
J. Fairman	1867-1871	Ray H. Legate	1909-
D. F. Chapman	1871-1875	J. L. Deming	1910-
E. D. Bowers	1876-1878	Herman Foster*	1911-1912
H. G. Smith	1878-1881	C. W. Davis	1914-

\*Lay Preacher.

## 5. Roman Catholic Church.

## a. Litchfield, St. Anthony's Parish.

## Visiting Missionary Priests.

Rev. John Smith	1848	Rev. Thomas F. Hendricksen	1854
Bishop O'Reilly	1851	Rev. Lawrence Mangan	1856
Rev. Philip Gillick	1853	Rev. Peter Kelly	1857

## Pastors of Winsted in charge, 1861-1882.

Rev. Daniel Mullen	Father Leo da Saracena O. S. F.
Rev. Philip Sheridan	Father Anacletus O. F. M.



## Resident Priests.

Rev. M. Byrne	1882-1883	Rev. Patrick Finnegan	1889-1896
Rev. Joseph Gleeson	1883-1885	Rev. Peter Skelly	1896-1910
Rev. Timothy M. Sweeney	1885-1889	Rev. John L. McGuinness	1910-

### C. UNITED STATES, STATE, JUDICIAL, COUNTY AND TOWN OFFICIALS FROM LITCHFIELD.

## 1. a. United States Senators.

	First Chosen		
Uriah Tracy	1796	Truman Smith	1849

## b. Members of U. S. Congress.

Uriah Tracy	1793-1796	Phineas Miner	1834-1835
John Allen	1797-1799	Truman Smith	1839-1843, 1845-1849
Benjamin Tallmadge	1801-1817	Origen S. Seymour	1851-1855
Uriel Holmes	1817-1818	George C. Woodruff	1861-1863
Jabez W. Huntington	1829-1835	John H. Hubbard	1863-1867
	Edward W. Seymour	1882-1886	

## 2. a. Governors of Connecticut.

Oliver Wolcott	1796-1797	Oliver Wolcott Jr.	1817-1827
	Charles B. Andrews	1879-1881	

## b. Members of the Council.

	chosen		chosen
Elisha Sheldon	1761	Jedediah Strong	1789
Oliver Wolcott	1771	Tapping Reeve	1792
Andrew Adams	1781	John Allen	1800
	Frederick Wolcott	1810	

## c. Members of the State Senate.

## Elected by General Ticket.

	chosen	yrs.		chosen	yrs.
Frederick Wolcott	1819	4	John Welch	1825	7
Seth P. Beers	1824	1			

## Under District System.

Phineas Miner	1830-1831	Gideon H. Hollister	1856-
William Beebe	1845-	Charles B. Andrews	1868-1869
Francis Bacon	1849-	Edward W. Seymour	1876-
Charles Adams	1851-	Seth Pratt	1877-1888
Charles O. Belden	1855-	Edwin McNeill	1889-
	J. Deming Perkins	1893-	

## d. Members of the House of Representatives, 1740-1919.

Two sessions were held yearly, May and October, indicated as (1) and (2), until 1819; one session was held yearly from 1819 to 1887; since then sessions have been biennial.

\*Members of a second May session held in 1745.

Joseph Bird	1740(1); 43(2)-45(1); *45(2)-46; 49(1).
Ebenezer Marsh	1740(1); 41-44(1); 45(1); 46; 48-52(1); 54; 55(2). 58; 59(2)-66; 67(2)-68(1); 69; 17(1); 84; 85(2)- 88; 90(1).
John Bird	1740(2); 43(1); 48.
John Buel	1740(2); 41(1).
Samuel Culver	1741(2).
Jacob Griswold	1742.
Edward Phelps	1744(2)-45(1); *45(2).
Isaac Baldwin	1745(1); 61(2)-64(1); 65-66(1); 82(2); 84(1).
Thomas Harrison	1747; 49(2)-52(1); 53(2); 54 (2).
Joseph Sanford	1747.
Joseph Kilbourn	1752(2)-53(1).
Benjamin Webster	1752(2)-54(1); 55 (1).
Peter Buell	1755(1); 56-57(1).
Elisha Sheldon	1755(2); 57(2)-61(1).
Jacob Woodruff	1759(1); 68(2).
Oliver Wolcott	1764(2); 67(1); 68(2); 70(2).
John Marsh	1766(2); 68(1); 71(1); 72(2); 74(1).
Abraham Kilbourn	1769--70.
David Welch	1770(1); 73; 74(2)-75(1); 80(2).
Jedediah Strong	1771(2)-80(1); 81-83(1); 85-86; 87(2)-88(1); 89.
Lynde Lord	1771(2)-72(1).
Abraham Bradley	1775(2)-76(1); 83(2); 85(1).
Andrew Adams	1776(2)-81(1).
Bezaleel Beebe	1781(2)-82(1); 83(1); 92(2); 93(2); 95(2).
Isaac Baldwin Jr.	1783(2); 84(2).
Ebenezer Benton	1781(1).
Uriah Tracy	1788(2)-92(1); 93(1).
Julius Deming	1790(2)-91(1); 98(1).
Ephraim Kirby	1791(2)-92(1); 94-95(1); 97; 98(2)-1801(1).
Solomon Marsh	1792(2).
John Allen	1793-95(1); 96.
Moses Seymour	1795(2)-97; 98(2)-99(1); 1801; 02(2); 06(1); 10-12(1).
James Morris	1798(1); 1800(2); 02(1); 03-05(2).
John Welch	1799(2)-1800(1); 01(2).
Frederick Wolcott	1802(1); 03(1).
Uriel Holmes	1803(2)-05; 06(2)-07; 14 (2).
Norman Buel	1806(1).
Aaron Bradley	1806(2)-08(1); 10.
Aaron Smith	1808-09; 11-14(1).
Nathaniel Goodwin	1808(2)-09.
Morris Woodruff	1812(2)-15(1); 24-26; 29-30; 36-37.
William Beebe	1815(1)-16; 27-28; 33.
Jonathan Buel	1815(2)-17.
Ephraim S. Hall	1817(1)-18(1).
Stephen Russell	1818; 30-31; 34.
Phineas Lord	1818(2)-19; 36-37.

Seth P. Beers	1820-23.
Phineas Miner	1823; 27; 29; 35.
David Marsh	1824-25; 46-47.
Reuben Webster	1826.
Jabez W. Huntington	1828.
Truman Smith	1831-32; 34.
Elihu Harrison	1832; 35.
Asa Hopkins	1833.
Samuel Buel	1838-39.
William Ray	1838-39.
Frederick Buel	1840-41; 54.
E. Champion Bacon	1840-41.
Origen S. Seymour	1842-43; 49-50; 1881.
Enos Stoddard	1842-43.
Elisha S. Abernethy	1844.
Dan Catlin	1844-45.
Charles Adams	1845.
George Seymour	1846-47.
Samuel P. Bolles	1848; 54.
William L. Smedley	1848.
Christopher Wheeler	1849-50.
George C. Woodruff	1851; 66; 74.
Thomas M. Coe	1851.
Josiah G. Beckwith	1852-53; 56-57; 69.
William Newton	1852-53.
Philip S. Beebe	1855; 62.
Samuel Brooker Jr.	1855.
Garry H. Minor	1856.
Edward Pierpont	1857.
Henry B. Graves	1858; 67-68; 76-77; 79; 89.
William Bissell	1858-59; 78.
Edward W. Seymour	1859-60; 70-71.
Daniel Stoddard	1860.
George H. Baldwin	1861.
Jacob Morse	1861.
George A. Hickox	1862; 89.
George M. Woodruff	1863; 65; 72.
Everett H. Wright	1863-64.
T. R. Sedgwick	1864.
D. E. Bostwick	1865.
T. L. Saltonstall	1866.
Eli D. Weeks	1867; 77; 1913.
T. Leander Jennings	1868.
J. B. Hopkins	1869.
Henry Frisbie	1870.
N. W. Beach	1871.
Ransom Newton	1872.
Julius Deming	1873.

Charles D. Wheeler	1873.
James B. Newcomb	1874.
William Deming	1875-76.
Garner B. Curtiss	1875; 82.
Charles B. Andrews	1878.
Leverett W. Wessells	1879; 87.
Gideon H. Hollister	1880.
Harry Clemons	1880; 87.
Frederick S. Porter	1881.
Willis J. Beach	1882.
F. Ratchford Starr	1883-84.
William H. Doyle	1883; 1907.
Edward E. Champlin	1884; 97.
Alvah A. Stone	1885.
Asahel Morse	1885.
Seth Pratt	1886.
Frank A. Shepard	1886.
Walter S. Judd	1891; 93.
William T. Marsh	1891; 93; 95; 1907.
George Kenney	1895.
George W. Mason	1897.
James P. Woodruff	1899; 1903.
John H. Harrigan	1899.
John T. Hubbard	1901; 03.
Fred'k A. Stoddard	1901; 09.
Samuel Trumbull	1905.
Francis M. Coe	1905.
James T. Sedgwick	1909; 11; 13.
John W. Ravenscroft	1911; 17.
W. Burton Allen	1915.
Winfield S. Rogers	1915.
Fremont M. Granniss	1917.
Willis O. Perkins	1919.
George C. Ives	1919.

#### e. Delegates to Constitutional Conventions.

Oliver Wolcott Jr.*	1818	Charles B. Andrews*	1902
Seth P. Beers	1818	*President.	

#### 3. a. Judges of Superior Court and Supreme Court of Errors.

Andrew Adams	1789-1798	J. W. Huntington	1834-1840
Tapping Reeve	1798-1815	Origen S. Seymour	1855-63; 1870-1874
James Gould	1816-1819	Charles B. Andrews	1882-1901
Samuel Church	1833-1854	Edward W. Seymour	1889-1892

#### b. Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Errors.

Andrew Adams	1793-1798	Samuel Church	1847-1854
Tapping Reeve	1814-1815	Origen S. Seymour	1873-1874
Charles B. Andrews	1889-1901		





HON. JAMES P. WOODRUFF, JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, 1920







PHILIP P. HUBBARD, TOWN TREAS., AND HON. JOHN T. HUBBARD, JUDGE OF PROBATE, 1920



c. Presiding Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.  
County of Litchfield.

Previous to 1819, this Court consisted of one Presiding Judge and four Associate Judges, called "Justices of the Quorum". From 1819 to 1839, there were but two Associate Judges, instead of four. From 1839 till the abolition of the Court in 1855, there were no Associate Judges—the County Commissioners being their successors.

Oliver Wolcott	1773-1786	Elisha S. Abernethy	1846-1847
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d. Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

	chosen		chosen
Ebenezer Marsh	1751	Uriel Holmes	1814
Elisha Sheldon	1754	John Welch	1819
Jedediah Strong	1780	Morris Woodruff	1829
	Hugh P. Welch		1836

e. Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

The Court of Common Pleas was re-established in 1883.

James P. Woodruff	1914-
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f. Judges of Probate, District of Litchfield.

District organized in 1747. Judges appointed annually by the Legislature until 1851. Since elected annually by the People.

Ebenezer Marsh	1747-1772	Oliver A. G. Todd	1852-1853
Oliver Wolcott	1772-1796	George C. Woodruff	1853-1854
Frederick Wolcott	1796-1837	Charles Adams	1854-1857
Elisha S. Abernethy	1837-1838	George C. Woodruff	1857-1858
Phineas Miner	1838-1840	Charles Adams	1858-1868
Ralph G. Camp	1840-1842	George H. Baldwin	1868-1869
Elisha S. Abernethy	1842-1844	George M. Woodruff	1869-1872
Ralph G. Camp	1844-1846	Henry R. Morrill	1872-1873
Elisha S. Abernethy	1846-1847	George M. Woodruff	1873-1906
Charles Adams	1847-1850	James P. Woodruff	1906-1907
Oliver A. G. Todd	1850-1851	John T. Hubbard	1907-1913
Henry B. Graves	1851-1852	Thomas F. Ryan	1913-1915
	John T. Hubbard		1915-

g. Commissioners of the Superior Court from Litchfield.

	First Chosen		First Chosen
Seth P. Beers		Jason Whiting	1862
Frederick D. Beeman		D. C. Kilbourn	1867
John H. Hubbard		J. G. Beckwith	1867
P. K. Kilbourne		Charles O. Belden	1869
William L. Ransom		Charles Adams	1869
Edward W. Seymour		H. R. Morrill	1870
William F. Baldwin	1860	F. S. Porter	1870
Henry M. Dutton	1860	John R. Farnum	1871
George M. Woodruff	1860	Charles H. Henry	1872
G. H. Hollister	1862	B. J. Smith	1872

Henry M. Dutton	1860	C. Merriman	1880
George M. Woodruff	1860	Francis N. Barton	1882
Edwin B. Webster	1861	Horatio P. Griswold	1882
Charles D. Wheeler	1861	Henry H. Prescott	1882
Aaron Baldwin	1862	Charles C. Moore	1882
William Coe	1862	Isaac Hutchinson	1882
Henry S. Griswold	1862	Walter S. Judd	1882
S. H. Dudley	1862	Holmes O. Morse	1884
F. A. Marsh	1862	Eugene M. Meafof	1884
A. J. Pierpont	1862	Isaac B. Pond	1884
F. S. Porter	1862	Charles I. Page	1884
James Richards	1862	Francis N. Benton	1884
Charles B. Andrews	1864	Charles F. Baldwin	1884
George Guernsey	1864	John T. Hubbard	1884
Chester Goslee	1864	Frederick Koehler	1886
David Stoddard	1864	Elbert P. Roberts	1886
Garry G. Porter	1864	Charles L. Blake	1888
Charles Booth	1866	Arthur Morse	1888
L. T. Gilbert	1866	Leonard L. Munson	1888
J. B. Hopkins	1866	Charles B. Bishop	1890
Dwight C. Kilbourn	1866	Frank M. Barnes	1890
S. O. Meafof	1866	Arthur D. Catlin	1890
John McNeil	1866	Henry S. Coe	1890
E. P. Moulthrop	1866	George W. Mason	1890
T. Leander Jennings	1866	Henry B. Peck	1890
Eli D. Weeks	1866	Chester Thomas	1890
Seth Pond	1868	Edgar F. Wedge	1890
Frederick Chittenden	1868	Frank H. Earle	1892
G. W. Bement	1868	Thomas Hinchliff	1892
Thomas M. Saltonstall	1868	Sidney D. Moore	1892
G. B. Curtiss	1870	Clifford C. Newbury	1892
A. B. Hallock	1870	Henry T. Peck	1892
Elbert G. Roberts	1870	Robert L. Rochfort	1892
S. B. Johnson	1871	Marcus D. F. Smith	1892
Henry R. Morrill	1872	Charles W. Talcott	1892
J. R. Farnum	1874	Charles D. Burrill	1894
Noah W. Beach	1874	Patrick C. Burke	1894
Samuel G. Beach	1874	James P. Catlin	1894
Darius P. Griswold	1874	Cornelius R. Duffie Jr.	1894
John A. Hall	1874	Charles D. Kilbourn	1894
William Deming	1877	L. L. Munson	1894
D. G. Turney	1877	William H. Plumb	1894
Howard Catlin	1877	Henry W. Wessells	1894
Henry Morse	1877	James P. Woodruff	1894
F. W. Wessells	1877	Charles W. Biglow	1896
Anson C. Smith	1877	Henry L. Coe	1896
Charles B. Anderson	1878	Samuel J. Cone	1896
D. C. Griswold	1878	Ithamar T. Dickinson	1896
Willis G. Barton	1880	Hiram N. French	1896



MISS CORNELIA B. SMITH, CLERICAL ASSISTANT  
TO THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT, 1920









FRANK H. TURKINGTON, SHERIFF, 1920

John H. Harrigan	1896	Frank B. Mason	1907
Lewis C. Hotchkiss	1896	Elgin G. Clock	1908
James H. Morse	1896	Charles S. Nearing	1908
William J. Hall	1898	Walter E. Seelye	1908
John Hurley	1898	Job H. Scott	1908
Charles R. Iffland	1898	Edgar D. Beach	1910
William T. Marsh	1898	Willis O. Perkins	1910
Edward Donohue	1900	George H. Hunt	1912
Wheaton F. Dowd	1900	William Gibbs	1914
Frederick S. Stoddard	1902	John H. Lancaster	1914
Almon B. Webster	1902	Charles D. Kilbourn	1915
Frederick A. Blatz	1906	Winfield S. Rogers	1916
Frank H. Earle	1906	Frederick L. Tharp	1916
Edward T. Harris	1906	George C. Woodruff	1916
David Johnson	1906	Lyman J. Booth	1918
John J. Karl	1906	F. North Clark	1918
Thomas F. Ryan	1906	William L. Ravenscroft	1918
Floyd L. Vanderpoel			1918

## 5. a. Sheriffs of Litchfield County.

	First Chosen		First Chosen
Oliver Wolcott	1751	Albert Sedgwick	1834
Lynde Lord	1772	Leverett W. Wessells	1854
John R. Landon	1801	Henry A. Botsford	1866
Moses Seymour Jr.	1819	George H. Baldwin	1869
Ozias Seymour	1825	Frank H. Turkington	1907

## b. Clerks of the Superior Court.

Isaac Baldwin	1751-1793	Frederick D. Beeman	1851-1854
Frederick Wolcott	1793-1836	Henry B. Graves	1854-1855
Origen S. Seymour	1836-1844	Frederick D. Beeman	1855-1860
Gideon H. Hollister	1844-1846	William L. Ransom	1860-1887
Origen S. Seymour	1846-1847	Dwight C. Kilbourn	1887-1914
Gideon H. Hollister	1847-1850	Wheaton F. Dowd	1915-

## c. County Treasurers.

John Catlin	1751-1761	George A. Hickox	1863-1875
Elisha Sheldon	1761-1779	William C. Buel	1875-1887
Reuben Smith	1779-1801	George E. Jones	1887-1896
Julius Deming	1801-1814	Charles E. Wilson	1896-1899
Abel Catlin	1814-1842	Frank W. Humphrey	1899-1909
Charles L. Webb	1842-1863	Philip P. Hubbard	1909-

## d. Prosecuting Attorneys.

## King's Attorneys.

Reynold Marvin	1764	Andrew Adams	1772
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## State's Attorneys.

Andrew Adams		Uriel Holmes Jr.	
Tapping Reeve	1788	Seth P. Beers	1820
Uriah Tracy	1789	Samuel Church	1825
John Allen	1800	David C. Sanford	1840
Daniel W. Lewis		John H. Hubbard	1849

## e. County Commissioners.

Stephen Deming	1856-	John J. Karl	1905-1913
William F. Baldwin	1862-1863	W. J. Bissell	1913-
John H. Lancaster		1915-	

## 6. a. Selectmen.

	First Chosen		First Chosen
John Marsh	1721	John Marsh	1755
Joseph Kilbourn	1722	Solomon Buel	1756
Jacob Griswold	1725	Archibald McNeill	1756
John Buel	1726	John Farnham	1757
Joseph Bird	1727	Josiah Grant	1757
Samuel Culver	1731	Nathaniel Culver	1758
David Baldwin	1735	Abel Barnes	1758
John Gay	1736	Jacob Woodruff	1760
Joshua Garrett	1737	Oliver Wolcott	1761
Josiah Walker	1737	Joseph Mason Jr.	1761
Joseph Mason	1737	Reynold Marvin	1762
Daniel Allen	1737	Timothy Collins	1763
Joseph Gillett	1738	Lynde Lord	1768
Benjamin Webster	1738	Mark Prindle	1769
Edward Phelps	1738	David Welch	1769
Joseph Kilbourn Jr.	1740	Seth Bird	1770
Ebenezer Marsh	1740	John Osborn	1770
Joseph Sanford	1743	Jedediah Strong	1770
Moses Stoddard	1743	Abraham Bradley	1773
John Catlin	1744	Reuben Smith	1776
Supply Strong	1744	A. Buel	1777
Joseph Birge	1745	Miles Beach	1777
James Kilbourn	1746	Bryant Stoddard	1778
Abraham Kilbourn	1746	Bezaleel Beebe	1778
Thomas Harrison	1746	Archibald McNeil Jr.	1779
Peter Buel	1746	Jonah Sanford	1780
A. Goodwin	1747	John Stoddard	1780
William Marsh	1747	Jesse Kilbourn	1782
Thomas Catlin	1748	Isaac Baldwin	1782
Samuel Beach	1748	James Stoddard	1783
Isaac Bissell	1751	Heber Stone	1784
Daniel Landon	1753	Timothy Skinner	1784
Ezra Plumb	1754	Elihu Harrison	1784
Elisha Sheldon	1754	Roger Marsh	1785
Ebenezer Taylor	1754	Seth Landon	1785
Benjamin Gibbs	1754	Philemon Murray	1786





JOHN H. LANCASTER, COUNTY COMMISSIONER, 1920



BOARD OF STILLEWEDEN, 1929

Roger N. Whittlesey	1787	George M. Buel	1833
Noah (?) Garnsey	1790	Rufus Pickett	1833
Julius Deming	1791	John Garnsey	1833
David Kilbourn	1792	Tomlinson Wells	1833
Ozias Lewis	1792	Levi Frisbie	1834
Nathaniel Goodwin	1795	Albert Sedgwick	1835
Samuel Seymour	1797	Samuel Wright	1836
John Landon	1798	George Dewey	1836
James Marsh	1799	Abner Landon	1836
John Welch	1799	Edward Pierpont	1836
Ephraim Kirby	1799	John A. Oviatt	1838
Stephen Sanford	1801	William Coe	1838
Norman Buel	1802	Isaac Tuttle	1838
Aaron Bradley	1803	Henry S. Griswold	1839
Aaron Smith	1803	Norman Kilbourn	1840
Peter Sherman	1805	Jason Whiting	1840
Ephraim S. Hall	1810	Eli Curtis	1841
Jonathan Buel	1811	Truman Gilbert	1841
James Birge	1811	David Benton	1841
Peck Clark	1815	Reuben M. Woodruff	1843
Stephen Russell	1815	Sidney Peck	1843
Phineas Lord	1816	William Bissell	1843
Joseph Birge	1817	Edward Garnsey	1844
Ozias Lewis Jr.	1817	Charles Jones	1845
Philo Moss	1817	Prentice Parkhurst	1845
Simeon Sanford	1817	Heman Beach	1846
David Westover	1818	Frederick Buel	1846
Samuel A. Merwin	1819	Henry R. Goslee	1846
Enos Stoddard	1820	Lyman Webster	1846
Morris Woodruff	1820	William Newton	1846
Levi Catlin	1821	Stephen Moss	1846
David Marsh	1821	Jacob Morse	1847
Julius Griswold	1822	Murray Kenney	1847
Reuben Webster	1822	Josiah G. Beckwith	1847
Charles Seymour	1825	Sherman P. Woodward	1849
William Beebe	1825	Henry Frisbie	1851
Benjamin Griswold	1825	Willis Stone	1851
John Bird	1826	George A. Smith	1852
Stephen Deming	1827	Frederick M. Blakeslee	1853
Gad Guild	1827	A. S. Lewis	1854
Ashbel Wessells	1828	Levi Heaton	1854
Roswell Harrison	1828	Abraham C. Smith	1855
William Harrison	1830	Andrew W. Marsh	1857
Asa Hopkins	1830	Jacob Morse Jr.	1857
Isaac Newton	1831	Anson C. Smith	1857
William Tuttle	1832	Daniel Stoddard	1857
Putnam Kilbourn	1832	Garry H. Minor	1858
Samuel P. Bolles	1832	Royal A. Ford	1859

Edward Hopkins	1859	Russell W. Fitch	1885
Isaac Morse	1860	J. K. Adams	1885
Everett H. Wright	1860	Ithamar T. Dickinson	1887
George H. Baldwin	1863	Moses W. Doyle	1890
George Guernsey	1863	Charles Merriman	1890
Joseph A. Newbury	1863	Fremont M. Grannis	1891
Garner B. Curtiss	1864	Samuel Trumbull	1894
Erastus Moulthrop	1865	Newton G. Tyler	1894
Charles D. Wheeler	1865	John L. Plumb	1894
Andrew J. Pierpont	1865	Fred F. Clark	1895
Chester C. Goslee	1866	Christian B. Iffland	1895
Francis M. Hale	1868	Patrick C. Burke	1896
Horace Nichols	1868	Edgar D. Beach	1896
Frederick B. Hand	1868	Louis J. Goodman	1898
Charles Adams	1872	George W. Clemons	1899
Anson B. Beach	1872	Edward Crutch	1900
Harry Clemons	1872	William H. Plumb	1900
Clifford C. Newbury	1872	Edward T. Harris	1901
Frederick S. Porter	1874	William Gibbs	1901
John McNeill	1874	Robert J. Landon	1901
Darius C. Griswold	1875	Truman Catlin	1902
Theodore S. Sedgwick	1877	Charles L. Dudley	1903
William R. Keeler	1877	Edson L. Perkins	1903
Lewis C. Hotchkiss	1878	Terrance B. Doyle	1905
Charles T. Page	1879	William T. Marsh	1906
Malachi Tracy	1880	George H. Hunt	1908
Thomas C. Goslee	1880	William T. Doyle	1913
William J. Hall	1880	Leman S. Brundage	1913
Jerome D. Wheeler	1881	Hector M. Richards	1914
H. G. Tyler	1881	George R. Crutch	1916
Charles B. Bishop	1884	Henry T. Weeks	1917
Cornelius Murphy	1885	William M. Murphy	1919

## b. Town Clerks.

John Marsh	1721-1730	George H. Baldwin	1858-1862
John Bird	1730-1735	Charles J. Deming*	1863-
Joseph Bird	1735-1736	E. Crossman	1863-1865
John Bird	1736-1738	George M. Woodruff	1865-1868
Joshua Garrett	1738-1742	Charles O. Belden	1868-1871
Isaac Baldwin	1742-1773	Willis J. Beach	1871-1882
Jedediah Strong	1773-1789	Charles C. Moore	1882-1883
Moses Seymour	1789-1826	George C. Woodruff	1883-1884
Elihu Harrison	1826-1836	Walter S. Judd	1884-1886
Samuel P. Bolles	1836-1840	Edward E. Champlin	1886-1903
Sylvester Galpin	1840-1841	John J. Karl	1903-1911
Samuel P. Bolles	1841-1854	George H. Hunt	1911-
Charles O. Belden	1854-1855		
Charles A. Hickox	1855-1858	*Resigned	





GEORGE H. HUNT, TOWN CLERK, 1920







HON. THOMAS F. RYAN, POSTMASTER, 1920



## c. Town Treasurers.

John Bird	1721-1736	Ebenezer Marsh	1801-1803
Joseph Bird	1736-1738	James Gould	1803-1811
John Buel	1738-1751	Samuel Buel	1811-1836
William Marsh	1751-1755	Isaac Lawrence	1836-1841
Supply Strong	1755-1763	George Dewey	1844-1845
Joshua Garrett	1763-1768	George C. Woodruff	1845-1846
Reuben Smith	1768-1770	Francis Bacon	1846-1847
Abraham Bradley	1770-1776	George C. Woodruff	1847-1851
William Stanton*	1776-	Frederick D. Beeman	1851-1854
Samuel Lyman	1776-1777	Lemuel O. Meafey	1855-1856
Reuben Smith	1777-1783	William F. Baldwin	1856-1859
Abraham Bradley	1783-1787	Frederick D. McNeill	1859-1860
Moses Seymour	1787-1789	George M. Woodruff	1860-1906
Ebenezer Marsh	1789-1790	Frank W. Humphrey	1906-1910
Timothy Skinner	1790-1792	Philip P. Hubbard	1910-
Abraham Bradley	1792-1794		
Benjamin Tallmadge	1794-1801	*Resigned	

## d. Postmasters.

## 1. Litchfield.

	Appointed		Appointed
Benjamin Tallmadge	1792	Riverius Marsh	1861
Frederick Wolcott		Howard E. Gates	1866
Moses Seymour Jr.		Willis J. Beach	1886
Charles Seymour		Seth Pratt	1889
George C. Woodruff		Julius Deming	1893
Jason Whiting		Almon E. Fuller	1897
Reuben M. Woodruff		Seth Pratt	1902
Leverett W. Wessells		Rudolph Karl	1910
George H. Baldwin	1853	Thomas F. Ryan	1915

## 2. Northfield.

Daniel Catlin	1836	Frederick S. Porter	
Samuel Merwin		J. Howard Catlin	1880
William Newton		Leonard L. Munson	1886
Levi Heaton		James P. Catlin	1887
John Catlin	1860	J. Howard Catlin	1914

## 3. Bantam.

William S. Plumb		Julia M. Buell	1893
William P. Crossman	1889	William P. Crossman	1897
George W. Fairgrieve		1909	

## D. CIVIL LISTS.

## 1. Original Proprietors.

This list contains the names of all the "original proprietors" of the township.

From Hartford:	Wethersfield:
*John Marsh (2 Rights)	*William Goodrich Jr.
Samuel Sedgwick Jr.	*John Stoddard
Nathaniel Goodwin	*Ezekiel Buck
Timothy Seymour	*Jacob Griswold
*Paul Jeck Jr.	Lebanon:
*Joseph Mason	*John Buel (2 Rights)
Nathaniel Messenger	Edward Culver
*Benjamin Webster	*Hezekiah Culver
*Joshua Garrett	*Thomas Lee
Windsor:	*Eleazer Strong
Samuel Forward	*Supply Strong
Thomas Griswold Jr.	Caleb Chapel, (2 Rights)
*Jacob Gibbs	*Thomas Treadway
*Joseph Birge	John Caulkins
*Benjamin Hosford	Stratford:
Farmington:	Ezekiel Sanford (2 Rights)
John Hart	*Nathan Mitchell
Timothy Stanley	*Thomas Pier
*John Bird	John Mann
*Joseph Bird	Joseph Peet
Samuel Lewis	Samuel Somers
Ebenezer Woodruff	Taunton, Ms.:
Samuel Root	*Nath'l Smith (2 Rights)
Nathaniel Winchell	John Collins
Hezekiah Winchell	Ephraim French
Colchester:	Woodbury:
*Joseph Gillett	*Josiah Walker
New Milford:	*Samuel Orton
Jonathan Buck	*Joseph Waller
	Isaac Judson

\*These proprietors became *settlers* in the town. The Rights of a few others were settled upon by the *sons* of the first purchasers; others sold out their interest to persons who became permanent; while a few forfeited their shares by neglecting to comply with the terms of the purchase.

## 2. First Settlers.

The following are the names of those who are regarded as "first settlers"—or persons who became residents of the town during the first three years of settlement:

Nehemiah Allen, Coventry	Joseph Bird, Farmington
Joseph Birge, Windsor	John Bird, Farmington

Samuel Beebe, Danbury	Thomas Lee, Lebanon
John Baldwin, Stratford	John Marsh, Hartford
Ezekiel Buck, Wethersfield	Joseph Mason, Hartford
John Buel, Lebanon	Nathan Mitchell, Stratford
Daniel Culver, Lebanon	Samuel Orton, Woodbury
Samuel Culver, Lebanon	Edward Phelps, Windsor
Hezekiah Culver, Lebanon	Thomas Pier, Stratford
Timothy Collins, Guilford	Paul Peck Jr., Hartford
John Catlin, Hartford	John Peck, Hartford
James Church, Hartford	John Stoddard, Wethersfield
Joseph Gillett, Colchester	Eleazer Strong, Lebanon
Abraham Goodwin, Hartford	Supply Strong, Lebanon
Joshua Garritt, Hartford	Joseph Sanford, Stratford
William Goodrich, Wethersfield	Lemuel Sanford, Straford
Jacob Griswold, Wethersfield	Nathaniel Smith, Taunton, Ms.
John Gay, Dedham, Ms.	John Smith, Taunton, Ms.
Benjamin Gibbs, Windsor	Samuel Smedley, Woodbury
Jacob Gibbs, Windsor	Thomas Treadway, Lebanon
Benjamin Hosford, Windsor	Benjamin Webster, Hartford
Joseph Harris, Middletown	Josiah Walker, Woodbury
Joseph Kilbourn, Wethersfield	Joseph Waller, Woodbury
Nathaniel Woodruff, Farmington	

3. List of Students at the Law School, selected from the 805 names in the catalogues of 1828, 1831, 1849, with the public offices held by them.

No register of the students at the Law School prior to 1798 has been preserved, though it is said that the number up to that time was 210, and we know that many of these were of distinction at least equal to any in the following list.

Date Entered.

- 1798 Henry W. Edwards, Conn: U. S. Senator and Gov. of Conn.
- 1798 Horatio Seymour, Conn.: U. S. Senator Vt., LL.D.
- 1798 Daniel Sheldon, Conn.: Sec'y of Legation to France.
- 1798 Henry Baldwin, Conn.: Judge Sup. Ct., U. S. Member of Cong., Penn.
- 1798 Richard Skinner, Conn.: Chief Justice, and Gov. of Vt.
- 1800 Joseph L. Smith, Conn.: Judge, East Florida.
- 1801 Joseph Barnes, Mass.: Judge, Penn.
- 1801 Benjamin Swift, Vt.: U. S. Senator.
- 1801 Ogden Edwards, Conn.: Judge, N. Y.
- 1801 Elisha Phelps, Conn.: Member of Congress.
- 1802 William Woodbridge, Ohio: U. S. Senator.
- 1803 Eldred Simkins, S. C.: Lieut. Gov. of S. C., and Member of Congress.
- 1803 Seth P. Beers, Conn.: Speaker H. R. Conn. and Com. of School Fund.
- 1804 Alfred Cuthbert, Ga.: Member of Congress and U. S. Senator.
- 1805 John M. Felder, S. C.: Member of Congress.
- 1805 John C. Calhoun, S. C.: Member of Cong. and Sen., Sec'y of War, Sec'y of State, and Vice Pres. U. S., LL.D.

- 1805 John A. Collier, Conn.: Member of Congress, N. Y.
- 1805 Lemuel Whitman, Conn.: Member of Congress.
- 1805 Samuel Howe, Mass.: Judge, Mass.
- 1805 Virgil Maxcy, Md.: Charge d'Affaires to Belgium.
- 1806 Samuel Church, Conn.: Chief Jus. of Conn., LL.D.
- 1806 Marcus Morton, Mass.: Judge Sup. Court, Lieut. Gov. and Gov. Mass.
- 1806 Theron Metcalf, Mass.: Judge Sup. Court, Mass.
- 1806 Royal Hinman, Conn.: Secretary of State, Conn.
- 1806 Joel Crawford, Ga.: Member of Congress.
- 1807 Timothy H. Porter, N. H.: Member of Congress.
- 1807 Perry Smith, Conn.: U. S. Senator.
- 1807 Moulton C. Rogers, Del.: Judge, Penn.
- 1807 John A. Cuthbert, Ga.: Member of Congress.
- 1808 Jabez W. Huntington, Conn.: Member of Congress and U. S. Senator,  
Judge Sup. Court, Conn.
- 1808 Charles De Menou, Md.: Charge d'Affaires of France at Washington.
- 1808 Silas Robbins, Conn.: Judge, Kentucky.
- 1808 John P. Cushman, Conn.: Member of Congress, and Judge, N. Y.
- 1808 Jonathan Hunt, Conn.: Member of Congress.
- 1809 Ebenezer Young, Conn.: Member of Congress.
- 1809 Levi Woodbury, N. H.: Judge and Gov. N. H., U. S. Senator, Sec.  
of Navy and Treas., Judge Sup. Court, U. S.
- 1809 John Pierpont, Conn.: Clergyman, Poet.
- 1809 Henry W. Dwight, Mass.: Member of Congress.
- 1809 William Tenney, N. H.: Member of Congress.
- 1810 William D. Martin, S. C.: Member of Congress.
- 1810 Garrick Mallery, Penn.: Judge of Sup. Court, Penn., LL.D.
- 1810 William C. Gibbs, R. I.: Gov. R. I.
- 1810 Charles S. Todd, Ky.: Minister to Russia.
- 1810 Edward F. Tatnall, Ga.: Member of Congress.
- 1810 James Booth, jun., Del.: Chief Justice of Delaware.
- 1810 Henry Shaw, N. Y.: Member of Congress.
- 1810 James G. King, N. Y.: Member of Congress.
- 1811 William W. Ellsworth, Conn.: Member of Congress, Judge Sup. Court,  
Gov. Conn., LL.D.
- 1811 Milo L. Bennett, Conn.: Judge Sup. Court, Vermont, LL.D.
- 1811 Henry L. Ellsworth, Conn.: Commissioner of Patents, U. S.
- 1811 Frederick Augustus Tallmadge, Conn.: Member of Congress, N. Y.,  
Recorder City of N. Y.
- 1811 Samuel S. Phelps, Conn.: Judge Sup. Court, Vermont, U. S. Senator.
- 1811 Andrew D. W. Bruyn, N. Y.: Member of Congress.
- 1812 Benjamin Howard, Md.: Member of Congress.
- 1812 George B. Holt, Conn.: Judge, Ohio.
- 1812 Abraham Hasbrook: Member of Congress N. Y., Pres. Rutgers Col-  
lege, N. J., LL.D.
- 1812 George B. Porter, Penn.: Gov. Michigan.
- 1812 Isaac T. Preston, Vir.: Judge Sup. Court, Louisiana.
- 1812 Kensey Johns, jun., Del.: Member of Congress, Chanc. of Delaware.



- 1812 Roger Sherman Baldwin, Conn.: Gov. Conn., U. S. Senator, LL.D.
- 1812 Albert C. Greene, R. I.: U. S. Senator.
- 1813 Edward King, N. Y.: Speaker House of Rep., Ohio.
- 1813 Oliver S. Halsted, N. J.: Chancellor of New Jersey.
- 1813 Elisha Whittlesey, Conn.: Member of Congress.
- 1813 Peleg Sprague, Mass.: U. S. Senator.
- 1813 Augustus B. Longstreet, Ga.: Judge Sup. Court Ga., LL.D., Pres. of  
University of Miss., and College of S. C.
- 1813 Charles Hawley, Conn.: Lieut. Gov. Conn.
- 1813 Moses Chapin, Mass.: Judge New York Court.
- 1814 Chester Ashley, N. Y.: U. S. Senator.
- 1814 Ebenezer Jackson, Jun., Ga.: Member of Congress.
- 1814 Timothy Childs, Jun., Mass.: Member of Congress
- 1814 John C. Nicholl, Ga.: Judge Sup. Court Ga., and U. S. Dist. Judge.
- 1815 John Pitcher, N. Y.: Lieut. Gov. N. Y.
- 1815 William S. Holabird, Conn.: Lieut. Gov. Conn.
- 1816 Thomas F. Foster, Ga.: Member of Congress.
- 1816 Thaddeus G. Holt, Ga.: Judge Sup. Court, Ga.
- 1816 William W. Boardman, Conn.: Member of Congress.
- 1817 John M. Clayton, Del.: Chief Jus. Del., U. S. Sen., Sec. of State, LL.D.
- 1817 Truman Smith, Conn.: Member of Congress and U. S. Senator.
- 1817 Lucius Q. C. Lamar, Ga.: Judge Supreme Court, Ga.
- 1817 Hiram P. Hunt, N. Y.: Member of Congress.
- 1817 William C. Dawson, Ga.: Judge of Sup. Ct. Ga., U. S. Cong. and Sen.
- 1817 Charles H. Carroll, N. Y.: Member of Congress.
- 1817 John Y. Mason, Vir.: Mem. of Cong., Dist. Judge, Gov., Sec. of Navy.
- 1818 Charles Chapman, Conn.: U. S. Attorney for Conn.
- 1818 William T. Gould, Conn.: Judge Georgia.
- 1818 Walter S. Franklin, Penn.: Clerk H. R., U. S.
- 1818 Chester P. Butler, Penn.: Member of Congress.
- 1818 Thomas T. Whittlesey, Conn.: Member of Congress.
- 1818 Eli H. Baxter, Ga.: Judge Circuit Court.
- 1819 William B. Lawrence, N. Y.: Charge d'Affaires at London.
- 1819 Frederick Whittlesey, Conn.: Member of Cong., Vice Chanc. and  
Judge Sup. Court, N. Y.
- 1819 Hopkins Halsey, Ga.: Member of Congress.
- 1820 Samuel W. Oliver, Ga.: Speaker H. R., Ala.
- 1820 Noyes Billings, Conn.: Lieut. Gov., Conn.
- 1822 Horace Mann, Mass.: Member of Congress, Educator.
- 1822 Theron R. Strong, Conn.: Member of Cong., Judge Sup. Court, N. Y.
- 1823 Thomas Kinnecut, Mass.: Lieut. Gov. Mass.
- 1823 Eugenius A. Nesbitt, Ga.: Member of Congress, Judge Sup. Court, Ga.
- 1823 Washington Poe, Ga.: Member of Congress.
- 1823 William J. Bacon, N. Y.: Judge Sup. Court.
- 1823 Henry W. Greene, R. I.: Chief Jus. Sup. Court, and Chanc. of N. J.
- 1823 John M. Holley, Jun., Conn.: Member of Congress.
- 1824 John P. Jackson, N. J.: Speaker H. R., New Jersey.
- 1824 William V. Peck, Conn.: Judge Ohio.

- 1824 Samuel Ames, R. I.: Chief Justice R. I.  
 1824 Origen S. Seymour, Conn.: Member of Congress, Judge Sup. Court  
     and Supreme Court of Errors, Chief Justice of Conn., LL.D.  
 1825 Elias W. Leavenworth, Mass.: Sec. of State, N. Y., Member Cong.  
 1825 Josiah Sutherland, Jun., N. Y.: Mem. Cong., Judge Sup. Court, N. Y.  
 1825 Anson V. Parsons, Mass.: Judge Sup. Court, Penn.  
 1825 George C. Woodruff, Conn.: Member of Congress.  
 1825 John Pierpont, Conn.: Chief Justice, Vermont.  
 1826 Willis Hall, N. Y.: Attorney General, N. Y.  
 1826 William D. Pickett, N. C.: Judge Sup. Court, Ala.  
 1827 George S. Catlin, Conn.: Member of Congress.  
 1827 George Gould, Conn.: Judge Sup. Court, N. Y.  
 1827 Augustus C. Hand, Vt.: Judge Sup. Court, N. Y.  
 1828 George W. Clinton, N. Y.: U. S. Attorney.  
 1828 Henry P. Edwards, Conn.: Judge Sup. Court, N. Y.  
 1829 Gideon Hall, Conn.: Judge Sup. Court.  
 1829 Henry W. Seymour, Conn.: Member of Congress, Minis. to Russia.  
 1830 Ward E. Hunt, N. Y.: Judge Ct. of Appeals, N. Y., U. S. Supreme Ct.  
 1830 Lewis B. Woodruff, Conn.: Judge Sup. Court, N. Y., Court of Appeals,  
     Circuit Judge U. S. for Districts N. Y., Conn. and Vt.  
 1831 Philo C. Sedgwick, Conn.: Sec'y of State of Conn.  
 1833 Augustus R. Wright, Ga.: Judge Sup. Court, Ga.

## E. BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL—1920.

### ANTIQUE FURNITURE

- Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe—Smith, Ralph P. and Harris, Thomas 1892

### ARTESIAN WELL DRILLERS

- Whitehill, W. W. and Son 1911

### ARTS and CRAFTS

- The Gift Shop—Sanford, Miss Margaret S. 1919

### AUTO REPAIR SHOPS

- Johnson, Carroll 1919  
 Bantam Auto Repair Shop—Baldwin, J. W. and Phelps, E. O. Bantam 1919  
     (Successors to Flynn & Doyle)

### AUTO SUPPLIES and LIVERY

- Cowan, Joseph 1917 Parsons, E. D., Bantam 1916

### BARBERS

- Brunetto, M. A., Bantam 1916 Mayer, Joseph 1900  
 Sepples, William 1914

### BLACKSMITHS

- Brennan, Patrick 1917 Morse, W. Beach 1913  
     (Successor to A. K. Taylor)

## COAL, WOOD and TRUCKING.

Newcomb & Barber—Newcomb, F. U. and Barber, C. P. (Successors to Marsh & Newcomb)	1918
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## COBBLERS

Donohue, Thomas	1867	Guinchi, Mrs. A.	1906
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## CONFECTIONERY STORE

The Palace Confectionery—Theophilos, George	1905
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## CONTRACTORS and BUILDERS

Deacon, George D.	1913	Landon, Robert J., Bantam	1895
Hotchkiss, Fdk. A., Bantam	1900	Switzer, George J.	1894
Schuster, Wolf	1910		

## CONTRACTOR and MASON

Da Ross, John	1912	Dean, George B.	1880
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## CREAMERY

Beach, Milo D.	1900
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## DENTISTS

Fenn, H. H.	1888	Spain, William C.	1918
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## DOCTORS

Buel, John L.	1890	Page, Charles I. Jr.	1897
Deming, Nelson L.	1907	Sedgwick, James T.	1887
Marcy, Robert A.	1908	Turkington, Charles H.	1910
Warner, Charles N.	1897		

## DRUGGISTS

Crutch & Marley—Crutch, Aaron and Marley, William (Successors to Crutch's Pharmacy)	1918
Wheeler Drug Co.—Kaehrle, Alfred; Sepples, John and Sepples, Richard (Successors to Wheeler's Pharmacy, established 1870)	1918

## DRY GOODS MERCHANTS

Bissell, W. Jerome	1888	Granniss, W. G.	1881
		(Successor to Granniss & Elmore)	

## EDITORS and PRINTERS

The Progressive Printery—Smith, Sheldon, Bantam	1919
Litchfield Enquirer—Woodruff, George C.	1894

## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Morse, Harry B.	1915	Turkington, William E.	1907
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## FISH, FRUIT and VEGETABLES

Moraghan, Martin J.	1909
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## FLORIST

Mattson, Clifford C. 1918

## FRUIT and VEGETABLES

Brunetto, M. A. (Successor to Eugene Small), Bantam 1916

## FURNITURE DEALER and FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Smith, George A. (Successor to A. E. Fuller) 1897

## GARAGE

Johnson, Herbert E. 1913

## GENERAL STORES

Ackerman, Jacob (Successor to H. T. Register), Milton 1916

Catlin, J. Howard (Successor to L. L. Munson), Northfield 1917

Morey & Perkins—Morey, A. C. and Perkins, Willis; Bantam  
(Successors to Watts & Morey) 1912

Platts, Raymond (Successor to James Catlin), Northfield 1915

## GRAIN and FEED

Dickinson, I. T., Milton 1892 Seelye, F. M., Bantam 1908

The Wadhams Co.—F. L. and Son (Successors to E. C. Snowman) 1913

## GROCERS

Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. 1917 Anderson, W. H., Bantam 1915

Chapin & Birk—Chapin, J. and Birk, E. (Successors to W. G. Granniss) 1919

Lynch, H. F.—(Successor to C. W. Hinsdale) 1916

## HARDWARE and PLUMBING

Allen, W. B.—(Successor to E. B. Allen Co.) 1884

Moraghan, M. V. 1911

## HARNESS MAKER

Franzosi, Alfredo 1914

## HOTEL

Phelps' Tavern—Phelps, Eugene L. 1911

## ICE

Litchfield Ice Co.—Crutch, George R. 1919

## INSURANCE

Clark, F. North 1914 Kirwin, James 1919

Clock, Elgin 1899 Mason, Frank B. 1900

## LAUNDRY

The Sunshine Laundry—Barber, T. Lynn 1919

Ching, George 1916



## LAWYERS

Hubbard, John T.	1883	Ryan, Thomas F.	1905
Lancaster & Foord—Lancaster,		Woodruff, George M.	1859
John H.	1910	Woodruff, James P.	1893
Foord, William M.	1919		

## MASON SUPPLIES and TRUCKING

Goodman, Louis J.	1900
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## MEAT DEALERS

Hannon, John J.	1908	Watson, F. I., Northfield	1919
Kilbourn Brothers—Kilbourn, Carl and Kilbourn, Harry; Bantam			1918
The Standard Market, Weir, Edward J. (Successor to D. H. Burns)			1912

## MEN'S FURNISHINGS and SHOE STORE

Denegar, L. R.	1886	Smith Brothers	1916
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## MILLINER

Biglow, Mrs. H. F.	1899
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## MOVING PICTURES

Barber, George	1913	Retallick, Thomas; Bantam	1919
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## PAINTERS and DECORATORS

Bergin, William F.	1912	Potter, E. F.	1898
Herbert, William	1919	Rosbach, W. G.	1887
Oviatt, William; Bantam	1914	Devins, Edward	1907

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Karl Brothers—Karl Brothers	1900
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## PRINTERS

Karl, Ernest	1900
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## REAL ESTATE

Duffie, C. R.	1901	Roberts, Mrs. Marion P.	1919
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## RESTAURANTS

Artikis, Louis	1918	Theophilos, George	1908
Manlakes, Nick; Bantam	1919		

## TAILORS

Aragona, T.	1919
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## TRUCKING

Richardson, Levalli; Bantam	1916
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## VULCANIZING

Kelly, Joseph	1919
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## F. ORGANIZATIONS.

## ST. PAUL'S LODGE, NO. 11.

## FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

Organized as St. Paul's Lodge, No. 16, by charter granted June 13, 1781; incorporated March 4, 1881, as St. Paul's Lodge, No. 11.

From Act of Incorporation; "That the officers and members of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 11, of Litchfield, Free and Accepted Masons, and such other persons as may succeed them or become members thereof, be and they hereby are constituted a body corporate and politic, by the name of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 11, of Litchfield, to be located in Litchfield, for the purpose of aiding indigent, sick and infirm Free Masons, and their widows and orphans, and by that name may receive by gift or devise, purchase, take, hold and convey real or personal estate necessary and convenient for such purposes, to an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars..."

## Past Masters.

Ashbel Baldwin	1781-1782	Alexander B. Shumway	1868-1870
Benjamin Hanks	1782-1786	Elbert G. Roberts	1870-1871
Jonathan Kettle	1786-1788	Samuel W. Ensign	1871-1872
Julius Deming	1788-1790	Edson Staples	1872-1874
Isaac Baldwin Jr.	1790-1793	William Deming	1874-1875
Ephraim Kirby	1798-1799	Elbert G. Roberts	1875-1876
Isaac Baldwin Jr.	1799-1801	Charles H. Platt	1876-1878
Ephraim Kirby	1801-1803	Walter K. Peck	1878-1879
Aaron Smith	1803-1806	James J. Newcomb	1879-1880
Peter Sherman	1806-1808	Alexander B. Shumway	1880-1881
Aaron Smith	1808-1812	W. Jerome Bissell	1881-1882
Roger Cook	1812-1814	Alexander B. Shumway	1882-1883
Lucius Smith	1814-1815	Eugene W. Meafoy	1883-1884
Elijah Adams	1815-1816	W. Jerome Bissell	1884-1886
Lucius Smith	1816-1819	George E. Jones	1886-1887
David Marsh	1819-1822	William R. Coe	1887-1888
James Winship	1822-1823	William T. Marsh	1888-1890
Phineas Lord	1823-1824	Weston G. Grannis†	1890-1891
Phineas B. Taylor	1824-1828	William T. Marsh	1891-1892
Frederick Buel	1828-1831	Neal D. Benedict	1892-1893
Heman W. Childs	1831-1837	William H. Wheeler	1893-1894
Samuel Buel 2d	1837-1843	Austin S. Wheeler	1894-1896
Stephen Deming	1843-1846	Wheaton F. Dowd	1896-1898
Charles L. Webb	1846-1849	William S. Plumb	1898-1899
Phineas B. Taylor	1849-1850	Edwin F. Potter	1899-1901
Frederick Buel	1850-1852	C. I. Page Jr.	1901-1902
Frederick D. Beeman	1852-1854	George C. Woodruff	1902-1903
David E. Bostwick*	1854-1866	William S. McLaren	1903-1904
Eli D. Weeks	1866-1868	William E. Turkington	1904-1905

George C. Woodruff	1905-1906	George Barber	1912-1913
C. J. Ramsey	1906-1908	Harry B. Morse	1913-1914
E. F. Potter	1908-1909	J. L. Buel	1914-1915
R. F. Shinn	1909-1910	N. A. Dains	1915-1916
J. P. Woodruff	1910-1911	M. Z. Westervelt	1916-1917
E. B. Perkins	1911-1912	C. D. Kilbourn	1917-1919
Harold K. Switzer, Master	1919-	Charles F. Deno, Junior Deacon	
T. Lynn Barber, Senior Warden		Robert W. Landon, Senior Steward	
Brandt B. Conklin, Junior Warden		C. T. Hotchkiss, Junior Steward	
W. Jerome Bissell, Treasurer		E. F. Potter, Chaplain	
W. S. Plumb, Secretary		W. Beach Morse, Tyler	
Elton R. Skilton, Senior Deacon		*Grand Master 1864; †1909.	

**DARIUS CHAPTER, NO. 16.****ROYAL ARCH MASONS.**

Organized October 19, 1815.

## Past High Priests.

Roger Searls	1815	W. F. Dowd	
William Deming		W. J. Bissell	1882-85, 1888-1920
A. B. Shumway		Brandt Conklin, High Priest	
Edson Staples		William Crutch, King	
E. W. Meafoy		E. L. Phelps, Scribe	
W. E. Turkington, Capt. of the Host		Archibald E. MacDonald, 3rd Vail	
W. G. Granniss, Principal Sojourner		Wilbur B. Morse, Tyler	
Albert E. Conklin, Royal Arch Capt.		George R. Crutch, Secretary	
William Miller, 2nd Vail		W. G. Granniss, Treasurer	

**BUEL COUNCIL NO. 20.****ROYAL AND SELECT MASONS.**

Organized May 12, 1853.

## Thrice Illustrious Masters.

Frederick Buel	1853	A. B. Shumway	
Charles O. Belden		W. J. Bissell	
W. G. Granniss		1892-	
William Crutch, Right Illustrious		W. E. Turkington, Secretary	
Deputy Master		W. J. Bissell, Treasurer	
Albert E. Conklin, Principal Con-		E. L. Phelps, Capt. of the Guard	
ductor of Work		Aaron Crutch, Conductor	
W. B. Morse, Tyler			

**EPHRAIM KIRBY CHAPTER, NO. 75****ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.**

Organized May 3, 1910.

The Order of the Eastern Star exists for the purpose of giving practical effect to one of the beneficent purposes of Freemasonry,

which is to provide for the welfare of the wives, daughters, mothers, widows, and sisters of Masons.

Worthy Matrons.

Hattie E. Mason	1910-1911	Florence L. C. Lynch	1916-
Anna B. Plumb	1912-1913	Edith H. Crutch	1917-1918
Orah E. Kaehrl	1914-1915	Anna B. Plumb	1919-
Frances I. Barber, Associate Matron		Anna A. Marley, Treasurer	
		Evaleen M. Switzer, Secretary	

LITCHFIELD GRANGE NO. 107,

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Organized November 13, 1889.

The aim of the Patrons of Husbandry is to promote interest in agriculture, and cooperative buying and selling; to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood, to suppress personal, local, sectional, and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry and selfish ambition, as well as to bring the farmers in various parts of the country into closer contact with each other.

Masters.

George W. Mason	1889-1891	Frederick A. Stoddard	1903-1904
John Q. Ames	1891-1893	Fred B. Plumb	1904-1906
Charles D. Kilbourn	1893-1894	Wilbur F. Webster	1906-1907
William H. Plumb	1894-1895	E. W. Bigelow	1907-1909
Whitman S. Osborn	1895-1896	George F. Sanford	1909-1911
William B. Morse	1896-1898	Fred L. Tharp	1911-1912
Frederick A. Stoddard	1898-1899	Wiley D. Buell	1912-1914
Fred L. Tharp	1899-1901	George B. Stoddard	1914-1916
Joseph H. Putnam	1901-1903	Lewis A. Osborn	1916-1918
	Joseph D. Coffill	1918-	

Leonard Dickinson, Overseer      Frederick A. Stoddard, Secretary  
William B. Morse, Treasurer

BEACON GRANGE NO. 118, PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

Northfield. Organized October 14, 1890.

Masters.

L. G. Humphreville	1890-1892	C. S. Hulme	1906-1907
E. A. Hopkins	1892-1894	Henry Gill	1907-1909
L. G. Humphreville	1894-1895	C. S. Nearing	1909-1910
H. B. Peck	1895-1897	Henry Gill	1910-1911
E. A. Hopkins	1897-1900	R. A. Goodwin	1911-1914
C. S. Nearing	1900-1902	Harry Borgeson	1914-1915
E. A. Hopkins	1902-1904	C. S. Hulme	1915-1917
Charles S. Hulme	1904-1905	R. A. Goodwin	1917-
E. A. Hopkins	1905-1906		

Charles S. Hulme, Secretary      F. M. Blakeslee, Treasurer



## ST. ANTHONY'S COUNCIL NO. 56, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

Organized June 21, 1890.

In addition to insurance, the Knights of Columbus seek to unite men of the Roman Catholic Church upon a common plane of devotion to God, to church, and to country. The principles of the Knights of Columbus are included under the headings of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

## Grand Knights.

Michael Kirwin	1890-1919	William W. Sepples	1919-
Edward A. Brennan, Deputy G. K.		Martin J. Bierne, Fin. Secy.	
Albert J. Hausmann, Rec. Sec.		Matthew E. Brennan, Treasurer	
John J. Weir, Chancellor		Rev. J. L. McGuinness, Chaplain	
Thomas F. Ryan, Advocate		Frank L. Doyle, Inside Warden	

## THE EMMA DEMING COUNCIL NO. 265

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BENEVOLENT LEGION.

Organized August 1, 1907.

The Emma Deming Council No. 265 is a fraternal and insurance society.

## Presidents.

Mrs. Alice Maguire	1907-1908	Miss Mary V. Kirwin	1913-1915
Miss Mary V. Kirwin	1908-1910	Mrs. Mary R. Phelps	1915-1916
Miss Margaret Hausmann	1910-1912	Miss Mary V. Kirwin	1917-
Mrs. Alice Maguire	1912-1913		
Mrs. Mary R. Phelps, Vice-Pres.		Miss Leonie Rey, Treasurer	
Miss Katheryn Burns, Secretary		Mrs. Joanna Meagher, Collector	

## ST. ANTHONY'S R. C. TOTAL ABSTINENCE and BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Organized February 20, 1916.

St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Total Abstinence Society is part of the great organized movement known as "The Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America". The motto of the organization is moral suasion. With prohibitory laws, restrictive license systems and special legislation it has nothing whatever to do.

The Litchfield branch of this society has rooms for social and organization purposes in the Bishop Block on West Street.

## Presidents.

P. C. Burke	1916-1917	Hubert A. Higgins	1917-
Dennis Carr, Vice-Pres.		James Rogers, Rec. Sec.	
		Bernard T. Nolan, Sec. and Treas.	

## SOCIETA ITALIANA DI MUTUO SOCCORSO DI LITCHFIELD.

Organized December 1, 1918.

An Italian mutual benefit society.

## Presidents.

Alfredo Franzosi	1918-1919	Tullio Aragona	1919-
Primo Strada, Vice-Pres.		Gino Valmoretti, Fin. Sec.	
Frank Valeri, Rec. Sec.		Frank Fabbri, Treas.	

## MARY FLOYD TALLMADGE CHAPTER, D. A. R.

Organized November 17, 1899.

The objects of this Society are:

1. To perpetuate the memory of the men and women who achieved American Independence, by the acquisition and protection of historical spots, and the erection of monuments; by the encouragement of historical search in relation to the Revolution and the publication of its results; by the preservation of documents and relics, and of the records of the individual services of Revolutionary soldiers and patriots, and by the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries.

2. To carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people, "to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge", thus developing an enlightened public opinion, and affording to young and old such advantages as shall develop in them the largest capacity for performing the duties of American citizens.

3. To cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

## Regents.

Mrs. John Laidlaw Buel	1899-1908	Mrs. Edward W. Seymour	1909-1917
Mrs. Short Adam Willis	1908-1909	Mrs. George C. Woodruff	1917-1919
Mrs. William Scott Plumb 1919-			
Miss Clarisse C. Deming, Vice-Regt.		Miss Elizabeth Deming, Corres. Sec.	
Miss Cornelia B. Smith, Registrar		Mrs. Robert A. Marcy, Treasurer	
Mrs. Martin G. Wright, Rec. Sec.		Mrs. Elbert B. Hamlin, Historian	
Mrs. Alex. T. VanLaer, Chaplain			

## SETH F. PLUMB POST, NO. 80, G. A. R.

Organized May 1886.

A national association of veterans of the Civil War. "On June 1917, the records of the Seth F. Plumb Post, No. 80, Dept. of Conn., were formally turned over to the Litchfield Historical Society by

the Commander, L. D. Leonard, and other officers of the Post, the officers of the Historical Society having kindly consented to place them in their archives for preservation. The Seth F. Plumb Post was practically disbanded at this time, although the few remaining members continued to attend Memorial Day Services". Note by Admiral G. P. Colvocoresses, added to the last record book of the Post.

Leverett W. Wessells	1887-	J. W. Wheeler	1896-
A. B. Shumway	1888-	Charles Merriman	1897-
L. D. Leonard	1889-	Charles W. Hinsdale	1898-1899
John Q. Ames	1890-	W. K. Stockbridge	1899-1902
W. H. Plumb	1891-	Edgar A. Alvord	1903-
H. T. Cable	1892-	A. B. Shumway	1903-1905
T. A. Smith	1893-	S. A. Whittlesey	1906-
George W. Mason	1894-	George W. Mason	1906-1909
D. C. Kilbourn	1895-	L. D. Leonard	1909-1916

### MORGAN-WEIR POST, No. 27, AMERICAN LEGION.

Organized August 1, 1919.

The American Legion is a national organization of Veterans of the World War. Its objects are as follows: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one-hundred-per-cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of the associations of the members in the great war; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy and to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness".

W. M. Foord, Post Com.	1920-	Sutherland A. Beckwith, Historian
Dr. Chas. H. Turkington, Vice-Com.		Albert W. Clock, Finance Officer
Edward A. Brennan, Adjutant		Archibald A. MacDonald, Chaplain

### R. P. JEFFRIES POST, No. 44, AMERICAN LEGION, BANTAM.

Organized October 3, 1919.

R. W. Landon, Post. Com.	1919-	Clifford Moore, Treasurer
Frank E. Wedge, Vice-Commander		Bruce Jeffries, Chaplain
Samuel Leithiser, Adjutant		Andrew Terek, Historian

### TROOP NO. 1, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

Organized February 12, 1915.

The Boy Scouts of America, is a corporation formed by a group of men who are anxious that the boys of America should come under

the influence of this movement and be built up in all that goes to make character and good citizenship.

Scout Masters.

Dr. A. E. Childs	1915-1918	Edward Pikosky	1918-1919
Samuel P. Griffin, Assistant		Albert Hausmann	1919-

Troop Committee.

Dr. A. E. Childs	M. J. Moraghan
Samuel P. Griffin	

TROOP No. 2, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

Organized January 10, 1917.

Scout Masters.

J. L. Mower	1917-	J. L. Kirwin, Asst.	1917-
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Troop Committee.

Dr. A. E. Childs	M. J. Moraghan
Rev. William J. Brewster	

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, NORTHFIELD.

Organized 1918.

Rev. W. Humiston, Scoutmaster 1918-

GIRL SCOUTS.

Organized 1915.

The purpose of this organization is to train girls to be good citizens, through natural contacts of work and play; to give them healthy ideals, to keep them physically fit, to broaden their interests and to increase their capabilities.

Captains.

Mrs. Baillie Ripley	1915-1917	Mrs. Richard Chisolm	1917-
Miss Blanche Richardson	1916-1917	Miss Elizabeth Deming	1917-1918
Miss Dorothy Bull			1918-

LITCHFIELD CHAPTER, AMERICAN RED CROSS.

Organized May 21, 1898, as Red Cross Auxiliary No. 16.

Red Cross Auxiliary No. 16 was reorganized October 5, 1900 as Auxiliary No. 5; became Sub-Division No. 1, July 11, 1905; became Litchfield County Chapter, March 1910; became Litchfield Chapter, April 3, 1917.

"The purpose of this Chapter shall be to aid the work of the American National Red Cross, in time of war by participating vigorously and loyally in furnishing such relief as may be necessary



for the Army and Navy, or other forces of the country, and in furnishing Civilian Relief for the dependents of soldiers and sailors, and in time of peace by responding to general appeals for relief made by the Central Committee, by providing systematic relief in cases of disaster, and in general by rendering relief or performing service in conformity with the Charter and By-laws of the American National Red Cross and such policies and regulations as the Central Committee may from time to time establish”.

Chairmen.

Mrs. George M. Woodruff 1898-1905	Rear-Adm'l Colvocoresses 1910-1919
Mrs. S. A. Willis 1905-1910	Miss Cornelia B. Smith 1919-
William J. Brewster, Vice-Ch.	Florence E. Ennis, Corres. Sec.
Mrs. John L. Buel, Rec. Sec.	Esther H. Thompson, Treas.

### LITCHFIELD BRANCH, CONN. INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

Organized 1881.

The purpose of the Indian Association is to extend financial aid to the Indians, to carry on medical and hospital work among them, and to maintain an Indian mission at Fort Hall, Idaho.

Presidents.

Mrs. Allan McLean 1908-1910	Miss Josephine E. Richards 1910-1918
Mrs. G. P. Colvocoresses 1919-	
Miss Mary P. Quincy, Vice-Pres.	Miss Kate H. M. Sylvester, Treas.
Mrs. Frederick Deming, Secretary	

### THE LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Organized August 3, 1893. Incorporated 1897.

The object of the Society, according to its constitution, is “to discover, procure, and preserve whatever may relate to the civil, military, literary and ecclesiastical history and biography in general, and of the County of Litchfield, and the State of Connecticut in particular; to investigate and preserve such traditions as now exist only in the memory of aged persons; to establish and maintain a library for general reference, also procure and maintain collections in archeology, art and of the natural history of Litchfield County, and in general to encourage study and research, particularly that relating to local history, biography, antiquities and natural history, and to disseminate information relative thereto”.

In 1901 the Society took possession of the museum and lecture room, especially provided for its uses in the beautiful building given by Mr. John A. Vanderpoel as a memorial to his grandmother, Julia F. Tallmadge Noyes, widow of William Curtis Noyes. Here are on exhibition the collections of the Society, consisting of Indian, Colonial, Revolutionary and modern local and other objects. Notable

among these is the collection of ten portraits and a landscape by Ralph Earle, the American painter, who visited Litchfield in 1796.

The Litchfield Scientific Association, which was organized in 1903 was merged with the Historical Society in 1919, and its collections, which are housed in the Noyes Memorial Building, now form part of those of the Historical Society.

#### Presidents.

Rev. S. O. Seymour, D.D. 1893-1918    Hon. George M. Woodruff 1918-  
Mrs. J. A. Vanderpoel, 1st Vice-Pres.    Alain C. White, Cor. Sec. & Treas.  
Cornelius R. Duffie, Rec. Sec.

### THE WOLCOTT and LITCHFIELD CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

Wolcott Library organized May 27, 1862; Litchfield Circulating Library organized on June 2, 1870. Consolidated in 1903.

The Wolcott Library was so-called in honor of a generous donor, J. Huntington Wolcott, whose family coat of arms was adopted as the arms of the Library Association. The library was housed in the brick building on South Street, now known as the Telephone Building, and was a reference library. Dues were paid for life membership, \$2.00 originally, raised to \$3.00 in 1863.

The Litchfield Circulating Library was organized at a meeting held on June 2, 1870, in Dr. David E. Bostwick's house, which stood on the site of the present Library Building. The books were kept for many years in the house of Mrs. Mary C. Hickox, who was the first librarian.

The dues were fixed at \$3.00 for membership, and were transferable. Persons paying \$1.00 were entitled to the benefit of the Library for one year, but not to membership. It was provided in the By-Laws that on the first Thursday of every month a meeting should be held at which should be sold at auction the use for a month of books, magazines, etc., not more than four books to be bid off by one member or yearly subscriber, and no bid of less than two cents should be accepted.

At stated periods, to be fixed by the Librarian, between each monthly sale, books returned or remaining unsold, might be taken out by members and subscribers on payment of ten cents a volume, "half to go into the treasury and half to go to the Librarian for his trouble". This method of distributing the books by auction was kept up until January, 1877, when a graded scale of charges was fixed, of ten cents for each volume for the fifty volumes of the highest numbers, five cents for all others down to No. 500, and three cents for all others, for two weeks us. These rates were altered from time to time.

The Wolcott and Litchfield Circulating Library was formed in 1903, by the consolidation of the two existing libraries. The present building was the gift of John Arent Vanderpoel, in memory

of his grandmother Julia Tallmadge Noyes. The Library was made free to the general public. The Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the D. A. R. was largely instrumental in raising the money for the purchase of the site and the endowment fund.

### Wolcott Library Association.

#### Presidents.

Dr. Henry W. Buel	1862-1894	Rev. S. O. Seymour, D.D.	1900-1903
George A. Hickox		1894-1900	

#### Librarians.

George A. Hickox	1862-1863	Mrs. Harriet B. Belden	1883-1886
William L. Ransom	1863-1881	Mrs. Mary J. Buel	1887-1902
Mrs. Mary C. Hickox	1882-	Miss Susan Mason	1902-
Miss Katharine Baldwin	1902-1903		

### Litchfield Circulating Library Association.

#### Presidents.

Dr. David E. Bostwick		George M. Woodruff	1876-
Mrs. Adelaide Bostwick	1870-	George A. Hickox	1877-
Edward W. Seymour	1871-	Mrs. E. G. Roberts	1878-1879
George M. Woodruff	1872-	A. B. Shumway	1880-1884
George A. Hickox	1873-	George C. Woodruff	1885-
Dr. Howard E. Gates	1874-	George M. Woodruff	1886-1901
George A. Hickox	1875-	Dr. John L. Buel	1902-1903

#### Librarians.

Mrs. Mary C. Hickox	1870-1871	Miss Nellie Tompkins	1880-1881
Mrs. E. W. Seymour	1872-	Mrs. Mary C. Hickox	1882-
Mrs. Mary J. Buel	1873-	Mrs. H. B. Belden	1883-1884
Mrs. D. E. Bostwick	1874-	Mrs. H. W. Wessells	1885-
Mrs. E. G. Roberts	1875-	Mrs. H. B. Belden	1886-
Mrs. H. W. Wessells	1876-	Mrs. Mary J. Buel	1887-1901
Mrs. C. H. Platt	1877-1878	Miss Susan Mason	1902-
Miss Annie Roberts	1879-	Miss Katharine Baldwin	1902-1903

### Wolcott and Litchfield Circulating Library.

#### Presidents.

Rev. S. O. Seymour, D.D.	1903-1918	George M. Woodruff	1918-
Alain C. White, Secretary		Charles H. Coit, Treasurer	
Miss Katharine Baldwin, Librarian			1903-

### NORTHFIELD WOMEN'S LITERARY CLUB.

#### Organized 1893.

A social club for the study of literature, history and science, and for local civic work.

#### Presidents.

Mrs. Louise A. Wooster	1893-1894	Mrs. Ella Catlin	1894-1895
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Miss Ella J. Curtiss	1895-1896	Miss Ella J. Curtiss	1903-1904
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Pond	1896-1897	Mrs. Gertrude Peck	1904-1905
Mrs. Gertrude Peck	1897-1898	Miss Ella J. Curtiss	1905-1909
Mrs. Laura Peck	1898-1899	Mrs. Grace Humphreville	1909-1910
Mrs. F. S. Grant	1899-1900	Miss Ella J. Curtiss	1910-1911
Miss Ella J. Curtiss	1900-1902	Mrs. Grace Humphreville	1911-1912
Mrs. Amelia Ray	1902-1903	Miss Ella J. Curtiss	1912-
Mrs. F. M. Blakeslee, Vice-Pres.		Miss Lucy Beatson, Treasurer	
Mrs. Louise A. Wooster, Secretary			

### THE CANSTANAWACTA CLUB.

Organized January 21, 1915.

The purpose of the club is to pay the fees of the Bantam Librarian and to buy new books for the Library.

#### Presidents.

Ruth E. Curnalia	1915-	Eva Swartfiguer	1916-
Mildred E. Beers	1915-	Mrs. Raymond Brown	1917-
Ruth Edwards	1916-	Ruth Ravenscroft	1917-1919
Mrs. Raymond Brown		1919-	
Ruby Mattson, Vice-Pres.		Mary T. Dempsey, Secretary	
Mrs. Clifford Hotchkiss, Treasurer			

### THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB.

Organized 1915.

A social club devoted to the reading of the plays of Shakespeare.  
Rev. F. J. Goodwin, Leader 1915- Miss Ruth Mathews, Secretary

### THE MEN'S FORUM.

Organized April 22, 1908.

The object of the society is to hold meetings for social intercourse, and the discussion of subjects of common interest, and to engage in any movement for the good of the community that may seem best to the members.

#### Presidents.

James P. Woodruff	1908-	Storrs O. Seymour, D.D.	1913-
Charles Rood	1909-	Dr. Albert E. Childs	1914-1915
R. K. Biglow	1910-	John T. Hubbard	1916-1917
F. North Clark	1911-	Rev. William J. Brewster	1918-
W. B. Allen	1912-	F. North Clark	1919-

Dr. A. E. Childs, Sec. and Treas.



## THE WOMEN'S FORUM.

Organized March 1914.

The Women's Forum was organized to secure an interchange of thought on any subject of general interest.

## Presidents.

Mrs. A. T. Van Lear	1914-1916	Mrs. A. T. Van Laer*	1919-
Miss Adelaide Deming	1916-1917	Mrs. William T. Marsh	1919-
Mrs. John Laidlaw Buel	1917-1919	*Resigned.	
Mrs. Ellsworth F. Miner, Secretary		Mrs. Frank Mathews, Treasurer	

## THE LITCHFIELD VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

Incorporated April 24, 1875.

The purpose for which this Company was formed is to make improvements in the Village of Litchfield, its streets, parks, public grounds and public buildings; and to purchase, erect and maintain new ones; and to do all things incidental to said business, and to the proper management thereof.

## Presidents.

George M. Woodruff	1875-1876	J. Deming Perkins	1888-1889
J. Deming Perkins	1876-1877	A. E. Fuller	1889-1911
George M. Woodruff	1877-1885	Seymour Cunningham	1911-1913
Charles H. Coit	1885-1886	A. T. Van Laer	1913-1919
A. E. Fuller	1886-1888	Alain C. White	1919-
Clara Kenney, Secretary		Esther H. Thompson, Treasurer	

## LITCHFIELD DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.

Organized November 1914, in affiliation with the Public Health Nursing Service of the American Red Cross.

The District Nursing Association has for its objects; to provide adequate public health nursing service for the township of Litchfield, through a trained public health nurse, with every facility to enable her to work to the best advantage; and to assist in improving the health and social welfare of the community, through its Board of Directors and trained workers, and to dispense material relief through its Auxiliary Committee.

Miss H. M. Richards, Pres. 1914-	Mrs. G. P. Colvocoresses, Secretary
Rev. William J. Brewster, Vice-Pres.	Mrs. E. P. Roberts, Treasurer

## Nurses.

Miss Ada Snowden	1914-1916	Mrs. Carolyn Wright	1918-
Miss Genevieve Robb	1916-1918	Miss Emma B. Brown	1918-

## THE LITCHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

Organized December 26, 1906.

The Litchfield High School Alumni Association is a voluntary body formed for the purpose of promoting good feeling and loyalty

among the graduates of the Litchfield High School, and among those who from time to time, may be associated with them.

Presidents.

Dr. Henry H. Fenn	1906-1908	James L. Kirwin	1912-1914
George R. Crutch	1908-1910	Rudolph Karl	1914-1916
William A. Crutch	1910-1912	Albert W. Clock	1916-
William L. Herbert, Vice-Pres.		Dora L. Stoddard, Sec. and Treas.	

PARENT-TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Organized November 4, 1914.

The Parent-Teachers' Association was organized for the purpose of bringing into close relations the home and school, that parent and teacher may cooperate intelligently in the education of the child.

Presidents.

Mrs. Philip P. Hubbard	1914-1915	Mrs. Milo D. Beach	1916-1917
Mrs. J. H. Reynolds	1915-1916	Mrs. W. S. Plumb	1917-1919
Mrs. R. Dunscomb Sanford 1919-			
Miss Adelaide Deming, Secretary		Mrs. Stanley Coe, Treasurer	

THE CONNECTICUT JUNIOR REPUBLIC.

Established 1904; incorporated July 1, 1909.

The Connecticut Junior Republic was established in 1904, on a farm of 80 acres, two miles north of Litchfield, left by will by Miss Mary Buel at her death in 1900. The original homestead was destroyed in 1914, but new buildings were given by William Colgate and Professor Roswell P. Angier, so that the Republic is equipped with an administration building, dormitory and gymnasium; the old school house is now serving as a dormitory and there are accommodations for 70 boys. Rev. John Hutchins was largely instrumental in getting the Republic established.

The object of the Republic is to change the delinquent and wayward (but not backward or criminal) boy of today into the self-supporting and law-abiding citizen of to-morrow; to direct but not suppress native energy.

Its method is to make each boy a citizen in a miniature republic, the watchwords of which are "self-government" and "nothing without labor". There is no adult domination, the boys truly govern themselves. There is no idleness and no enforced labor; each boy simply confronts the dilemma of working for his living or of suffering the penalty of laws enacted by the boys, administered by boy courts, enforced by boy officers.

Presidents Board of Trustees.

Rev. John Hutchins	1904-1909	Roswell P. Angier*	1915-1918
Charles S. DeForest	1909-1912	Harley F. Roberts	1918-
George Parmly Day	1912-1915	*Became Honorary President in 1918.	

William T. Marsh, Vice-Pres.	Union & N. Haven Trust Co., Treas.		
Ralph D. Cutler, Secretary			
Superintendents.			
Frederick King	1904-1908	Lester F. Babcock	1917-1919
H. G. LeRoy	1908-1909	John M. Kingman	1919-
S. J. Davis	1909-1917	Tilden Gifford	1919-

## THE LITCHFIELD AID OF THE CONNECTICUT JUNIOR REPUBLIC.

Organized December 30, 1911.

The Litchfield Aid was organized for the purpose of raising funds toward the current expenses of the Republic, and has a general supervision of the buildings through its House Committee. The Aid also supplies suitable recreation for the citizens and helps to keep the trustees in close touch with the needs of the Republic.

### Presidents.

Miss Minerva W. Buel	1911-1913	Mrs. A. T. Van Laer	1913-1919
Miss Minerva W. Buel, Vice-Pres.*		Mrs. John Dove, Cor. Sec.	
Mrs. Seymour Cunningham, Rec.-Sec.		Miss Harriet C. Abbe, Treasurer	
*Acting president.			

## THE LITCHFIELD EQUAL FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

Organized September 5, 1913.

The Litchfield Equal Franchise League is an Auxiliary of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, which has for its object the securing of the ratification of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment and the preparation of Connecticut women for the use of the vote.

### Presidents.

Miss Frances E. Hickox	1913-1914	Miss Adelaide Deming	1914-
Mrs. William T. Marsh, Vice-Pres.		Miss Florence E. Ennis, Sec.-Treas.	

## LITCHFIELD MEMORIAL DAY ASSOCIATION.

Organized 1913.

This association was organized for the purpose of assisting in the observance and perpetuation of Memorial Day.

### Presidents.

Mrs. W. O. Butler	1913-1919	Alain C. White	1919-
Miss Cornelia B. Smith, Vice-Pres.		Miss Edith H. Crutch, Treasurer	
Mrs. George S. Elmore, Secretary			

## THE LITCHFIELD COUNTY FARM BUREAU.

Organized February 12, 1915.

The Litchfield County Farm Bureau was organized for the purpose of promoting the development of the most profitable and permanent system of agriculture; the most wholesome and satisfactory living conditions; the highest ideals in home and community life; and a genuine interest in the farm business and rural life on the part of the boys and girls and young people.

## Presidents.

C. E. Hough, Washington	1915-1916	Richard Dodge, Wash'ton	1917-1918
Robert Scoville, Salisbury	1916-1917	S. McL. Buckingham, W't'n	1918-
S. R. Scoville, Cornwall, 1st Vice-Pr.		Philip P. Hubbard, Litchfield, Treas.	
Mrs. W. Griswold, Goshen, 2d V.-P.			

## County Agricultural Agent.

Allen W. Manchester	1915-1919	Arthur G. Davis	1919-
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## Home Demonstration Agent.

Miss Josephine Leverett	1917-1918	Miss Marie Lovsnes	1919-
Miss Emily Bronson	1918-1919	Miss Eleanor S. Moss	1919-

## Boys' and Girls' Club Leader.

Harold Brundage	1918-	Raymond T. James	1919-
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## THE SANCTUM.

Incorporated 1906.

A social club with a club house on South Street.

## Presidents.

Col. George B. Sanford	1906-1908	Dr. John L. Buel	1908-
Alain C. White, Vice-Pres.		Seymour Cunningham, Treasurer	
William Trumbull, Secretary			

## THE LITCHFIELD COUNTRY CLUB.

Incorporated 1916, as the successor of the Litchfield Lawn Club and the Litchfield Golf Club.

Club house, golf links, tennis courts, etc., at the Catlin Farm.

## Presidents.

Alain C. White	1916-1918	F. Kingsbury Bull	1918-
Robert C. Swayze, Vice-Pres.		John H. Lancaster, Secretary	
Cornelius R. Duffie, Treasurer			

## THE CANOE CLUB.

Organized August 20, 1897; as "The Bantam River Club Company".

The Bantam River Club Company was organized with 20 stockholders with shares of \$25 each. The Canoe Club of Litchfield



was organized on March 13, 1911, with a capital of \$2,000, shares \$50 each, and took over the property of the Bantam River Club Company.

Charles H. Coit, Pres. 1897-

Charles T. Payne, Sec. and Treas.

### MARSHEPAUG FOREST CLUB.

Incorporated 1913.

A fishing and shooting club, with clubhouse.

Presidents.

Charles T. Payne

1913-1920

Richard Hunt

1920-

John H. Lancaster, Secretary

William M. Foord, Treasurer

### THE LITCHFIELD GARDEN CLUB.

Organized September 1913, became member of the Garden Club of America in 1916.

The Litchfield Garden Club was organized for the purpose of promoting scientific and artistic methods of gardening. While this has been the avowed object, the Club has widened its activities somewhat during the six years of its existence and has undertaken civic work, such as the improvement and planting of the grounds around the New Haven station in Litchfield, and in the autumn of 1919 the purchase of the building formerly known as the Lawn Club, which it proposes to put in good shape, so that in the near future there may be a comfortable building available for rent at moderate prices.

Mrs. S. Edson Gage, Pres. 1913-

Mrs. John Dove, Cor. Sec.

Mrs. Chas. B. Curtis, 1st Vice-Pres.

Miss Alice Kingsbury, Treas.

Mrs. Henry S. Munroe, Sec.

### THE NEEDLE AND BOBBIN CLUB OF LITCHFIELD.

Organized 1919.

This society is the first Auxiliary of the Needle and Bobbin Club of New York and its purposes include: to bring together those who are interested in lace, embroidery, weaving and allied subjects; to make collections of hand-made fabrics and exhibit them in the rooms of the Litchfield Historical Society; and to contribute toward the education of, and give awards to, workers in these fabrics.

Mrs. John A. Vanderpoel, Hon- Pres.

Miss Kate I. Thomas, Secretary

Miss Mary P. Quincy, President

Mrs. Floyd L. Vanderpoel, Treas.

Mrs. Charles B. Curtis, 1st V.-Pres.

### LITCHFIELD BASEBALL CLUB.

Organized 1919.

Arthur Staples, Manager 1919-

## LITCHFIELD FIRE COMPANY.

Organized October 27, 1890.

The Litchfield Fire Company is a voluntary organization, and is equipped with a La France Chemical and Hose Auto Truck, presented to the Company in 1916 by Mrs. W. H. K. Godfrey and Miss Ella Coe. In 1892, the Company moved into the present Fire Department Building, built by J. Deming Perkins, the use of which was given by him to the Fire Company. This building was purchased from the estate of Mr. Perkins on August 1, 1911, by the Borough of Litchfield.

## Foremen.

Samuel J. Cone	1890-1894	Edward Crutch	1903-1905
Alexander B. Shumway	1894-1895	George A. Smith	1905-1907
George C. Woodruff	1895-1896	George R. Crutch	1907-1908
W. Beach Morse	1896-1897	Louis J. Goodman	1908-1909
W. Burton Allen	1897-1899	Robert K. Biglow	1909-1912
Charles W. Biglow	1899-1901	Thomas F. Ryan	1912-1917
George E. Mason	1901-1903	William L. Herbert	1917-

## Chiefs.

Eugene L. Phelps	1891-1896	George C. Woodruff	1902-1907
J. Deming Perkins	1896-1898	W. Beach Morse	1907-
W. Beach Morse	1898-1902		

A. J. Hausmann, Secretary

James E. Conroy, Treasurer

## BANTAM FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Organized February 1916.

Robert Currie, Chief	1916-	C. Hotchkiss, Secretary
C. Deno, Assistant Chief		R. Brown, Treasurer

## THE LITCHFIELD CEMETERY COMPANY.

Incorporated February 6, 1866, in charge of East Cemetery.

## Presidents.

Origen S. Seymour	1866-1883	Henry W. Buel	1887-1893
George C. Woodruff	1883-1885	Edgar B. VanWinkle	1893-1920
Alain C. White		1920-	

James P. Woodruff, Treasurer

Seymour Cunningham, Secretary

## WEST CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

Incorporated 1901.

The Company was organized for the purpose of caring for and maintaining the West Cemetery.

Francis M. Coe, Pres. 1901-

Lewis Marsh, Secretary

F. U. Newcomb, Treasurer



PARADE OF THE LITCHFIELD FIRE CO., JULY 4, 1892









MEMBERS OF THE SANGRE DE CRISTO CLUB, 1910

## BOROUGH OF LITCHFIELD.

Incorporated 1818, as a village, at the May session of the Legislature, in which act the limits of the village were defined, officers to be a president, treasurer and clerk. In 1885, at the January session of the Legislature, all the electors dwelling within the limits of the village were declared to be a body politic and corporate by the name of the Borough of Litchfield, the officers to be a warden, burgesses, etc.

## Presidents.

Frederick Wolcott	1818-1820	Frederick D. Beeman	1857-1858
Uriel Holmes	1820-1824	John H. Hubbard	1858-1859
William Buel	1824-1838	Edward W. Seymour	1859-1860
Phineas Miner	1838-1839	Henry W. Buel	1860-1862
Joseph Adams	1839-1842	Seth P. Beers	1862-1863
Josiah G. Beckwith	1842-1853	George C. Woodruff	1863-1879
Garwood Sanford	1853-1854	J. Deming Perkins	1879-1880
Henry B. Graves	1854-1856	George A. Hickox	1880-1882
P. K. Kilbourne	1856-1857	Frederick Deming	1882-1884

## Wardens.

H. E. Gates	1887-1888	Charles H. Coit	1898-1899
William L. Ransom	1888-1889	William T. Marsh	1899-1900
Seth Pratt	1889-1890	John T. Hubbard	1900-1901
William T. Marsh	1890-1892	Aaron Crutch	1901-1907
Charles B. Bishop	1892-1893	P. M. Skelly	1907-1908
Henry W. Wessells	1893-1894	Aaron Crutch	1908-1911
Eugene L. Phelps	1894-1895	W. Burton Allen	1911-1919
James P. Woodruff	1895-1898	George C. Ives	1920-

## Burgesses.

Charles N. Warner	Charles W. Biglow
Martin J. Moraghan	Edward M. Sepples
Lyman J. Booth	William S. Plumb

## Assessors

Louis J. Goodman	Richard V. Tobin
Matthew E. Brennan	
W. Jerome Bissell, Treasurer	Charles H. Coit, Auditor
Travis A. Ganung, Clerk	

## BOROUGH OF BANTAM.

Incorporated April 16, 1915.

## Wardens.

Eli D. Weeks	1915-1918	John Hard	1918-
John Coe, 1st Burgess		Frank Seward, 4th Burgess	
R. L. Rochfort, 2nd Burgess		George Burgoyne, 5th Burgess	
A. C. Morey, 3rd Burgess		Clifford Hotchkiss, 6th Burgess	

## Assessors.

R. J. Landon	W. L. Ravenscroft
F. M. Seelye, Treasurer	Robert Currie, Auditor
George Morey, Clerk	

## BOARD OF TRADE, BANTAM.

Organized December 5, 1911.

## Presidents.

C. F. Flynn	1911-1912	Floyd Vanderpoel	1913-1914
W. S. Rogers	1912-1913	Milo D. Bartholomew	1914-1916
C. B. Heath	1916-		
Herman Foster, Secretary		F. M. Seelye, Treasurer	

LITCHFIELD AUXILIARY OF THE NEW HAVEN  
BRANCH, WOMEN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS OF BOSTON.

Congregational Church.

Organized 1870.

The purpose of the Auxiliary is to cooperate with the Women's Board of Missions in the support of missionaries and mission stations on the foreign field.

## Presidents.

Mrs. Allan McLean	1875-1881	Mrs. John Hutchins	1895-1913
Mrs. Charles Symington	1883-1893	Mrs. John L. Buel	1913-1915
Mrs. Frank J. Goodwin	1915-		
Mrs. Henrietta Bissell, Secretary		Mrs. George S. Elmore, Treasurer	

## DAISY CHAIN, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Organized July 1875.

The purpose of the Daisy Chain is to interest children in missionary work and lead them to do what they can to help the children of less favored lands.

## Presidents.

Miss Josephine E. Richards	1875-1912	Miss Mary A. Hutchins	1912-
Miss Eleanor Hexamer, Secretary		Miss Elizabeth Potter, Treasurer	

## YOUNG LADIES' MISSION BAND, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Organized November 15, 1884.

The object of this organization is as follows: To promote the Kingdom of Christ in the general work of Foreign Missions and so fulfill His parting command. All money raised by the Society is sent to the Women's Board of Missions to assist in its work of sending the Gospel to the more remote parts of the earth.

## Presidents.

Miss Emma L. Adams	1884-1896	Miss Cornelia B. Smith	1912-
Mrs. George C. Woodruff	1896-1912		
Miss Mildred Rylander, Secretary		Miss Clara B. Kenney, Treasurer	



## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Organized 1890.

The object of this society is to serve as a training school for the church. It is a member of the Winsted Union, and contributes to Home and Foreign Missions.

Eleanor Hexamer, Pres. 1920-                      Cornelia B. Smith, Sec. and Treas.  
Mildred Rylander, Vice-Pres.

## THE CRADLE ROLL, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Organized 1897.

This organization takes the children of the church up to the time they are six years old. No meetings are held except once a year in connection with the Daisy Chain, when they have a Cradle Roll Tea. A suitable tea is served, with a birthday cake with as many candles as there are members. Through an Endowment Fund established by Mrs. Shepherd Knapp, the children support a little African boy.

Leaders.

Mrs. John Hutchins                      1897-1915      Mrs. Albert E. Childs                      1919-  
Mrs. William O. Butler                      1915-1919

## THE WOMEN'S GUILD, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Organized January 1903.

The Women's Guild was organized for the purpose of helping to carry on the work of the church in whatever way seemed best.

Presidents.

Miss Martha Peck                      1903-1906      Mrs. William T. Marsh                      1911-1912  
Mrs. Frederick W. Peck                      1906-1908      Mrs. Robert A. Marcy                      1912-1913  
Mrs. George E. Mason                      1908-1911      Mrs. William J. Dykes                      1913-  
Miss Cornelia B. Smith, Vice-Pres.      Mrs. George E. Mason, Sec.-Treas.

## WOMEN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Date of organization unknown.

The early records of this Society have either been lost, or as seems more likely, no official records were kept. It is certain, however, that the Home Missionary work has been carried on by the women since early in the history of the church. The work of the Society has been preparing and sending boxes of clothing and household articles to home missionaries in the field. Later the

Society became affiliated with the Connecticut Women's Congregational Union, and the work included the raising of money for the work of this organization.

Presidents.

Mrs. Henry R. Coit	Mrs. John Hutchins	1910-1915
Mrs. George M. Woodruff	Mrs. George C. Woodruff	1915-
Mrs. Frederick Deming, Vice-Pres.	Mrs. W. B. Allen, Treasurer	
Miss Cornelia B. Smith, Secretary		

**LADIES' AID SOCIETY,  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**

Organized September 29, 1869.

Originally called the Sewing Society. Later became the Ladies' Aid Society, with the object of helping the church financially and socially. No record of officers available, prior to 1900.

Presidents.

Mrs. George Wallace Newcomb		Mrs. Aaron Crutch	1914-1915
Mrs. Horace Cowles	1900-1911	Mrs. F. U. Newcomb	1915-1917
Mrs. Seth Osborne	1911-	Mrs. Charles Shumway	1917-1919
Mrs. Marvin S. Todd	1912-1913	Mrs. Milo D. Beach	1919-
Mrs. Harry T. Lynch, Secretary		Mrs. William B. Pruner, Treasurer	

**EPWORTH LEAGUE, CHAPTER 10376  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**

Organized June 8, 1893.

This society was organized as a Christian Endeavor Society originally.

The purpose of the Epworth League essentially is for the discipline of the youth of the church in Christian life and experience, and training for Christian service.

Joseph D. Coffill, President 1920- Miss Emma Drumm, Sec. and Treas.

**JUNIOR EPWORTH LEAGUE, CHAPTER 4679  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Organized May 20, 1896.

Mrs. Milo D. Beach, Supt. 1920-

Elizabeth Pruner, Pres. Marjorie Fenn, Secy.  
Bradford Smith, Treas.

**THE OXFORD CLASS, METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**

An organized adult Bible Class. The Purpose: The mutual improvement of its members through Bible study and social culture, and the advancement of the church.

Leonard A. Dickinson, President Mrs. Gladys S. Ganung, Treasurer  
Joseph Coffill, Vice-President Miss Kittie Fenn, Teacher  
Miss Emma Drumm, Secretary

## ST. MICHAEL'S GUILD, ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.

Organized 1903.

For financial aid of parish, especially the maintenance of the Rectory; feature, an annual sale in August.

Presidents.

Mrs. C. W. Hinsdale	1903-1920	Mrs. Charles N. Warner,	1920-
Mrs. A. P. Lewis, Hon. Pres.		Mrs. Seymour Cunningham, Treas.	
		Mrs. M. G. Wright, Secretary	

## YOUNG WOMEN'S GUILD, ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.

Organized 1920.

For the aid of the Rector and missionary work.

Mrs. A. Cahill, Pres.	1920-	Mrs. R. Dunscomb Sanford, Sec.	
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## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY TO THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.

Date of organization unknown.

For the aid of general and special missionary work of the church at large.

Mrs. W. J. Brewster, Ch.	1917-	Mrs. W. H. Sanford, Sec. and Treas.	
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## THE LADIES' SOCIETY OF UNITED WORKERS

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. BANTAM.

Organized June 13, 1895.

The object of this society is to help the church financially and socially.

Presidents.

Mrs. John Bishop	1895-	Mrs. Arthur Morey	1908-
Mrs. George Clemons	1896-1897	Mrs. Henry Wheeler	1909-
Mrs. John Coe	1898-1900	Mrs. Fred Landon	1910-1912
Mrs. George Clemons	1901-1904	Mrs. John Coe	1913-1916
Mrs. Fred Landon	1905-	Mrs. Harley Scott	1917-
Mrs. George Peck	1906-1907	Mrs. George Peck	1918-
Mrs. Augustus Smith, Vice-Pres.		Mrs. F. O. Landon, Sec. and Treas.	

## EPWORTH LEAGUE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BANTAM

Organized January 31, 1897.

Presidents.

Samuel Glover	1897-1898	Jennie Coe	1898-
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John Sparklin	1898-1899	James Monroe	1906-1908
George Peck	1899-	S. May Barber	1908-1909
Jennie Coe	1899-1900	Herman Foster	1909-1910
George Clemons	1900-1901	Samuel Glover	1910-1911
Samuel Glover	1901-1902	Herman Foster	1911-1912
S. May Barber	1902-1904	Robert Elliott	1912-
Jeanie Strathie	1904-1906	Herman Foster	1912-1913
,	James Monroe	1913-	
Gladys Mattson, Vice-Pres.		Hazel Morey, Treasurer	
	Harriet Peck, Secretary		

### WOMEN'S GUILD, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BANTAM.

Organized 1896.

The Women's Guild succeeded the Women's Sewing Society, which had been in existence for many years. The object of the Guild is to promote the welfare of St. Paul's Church and to do such charitable and missionary work as shall be determined by the members.

#### Presidents.

Mrs. George B. Morey	1896-1897	Mrs. Edward Robinson	1908-1909
Mrs. William A. Buell	1897-1902	Mrs. George B. Morey	1909-1911
Mrs. Hiram Stone	1902-1904	Mrs. James L. Doyle	1911-1915
Mrs. John H. Jackson	1904-1905	Mrs. William A. Buell	1915-1916
Mrs. John O. Ferris	1905-1906	Mrs. Thaddeus W. Harris	1916-1919
Mrs. William A. Buell	1906-1908	Mrs. Wm. L. Ravenscroft	1919-
Mrs. Filmore Brown, Vice-Pres.		Mrs. Cornelius R. Duffie, Sec.-Treas.	

### ALTAR GUILD, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BANTAM.

Organized 1910.

The Altar Guild has the sacristy work of the church in charge.  
Mrs. H. Macintyre, Pres. 1910- Miss Edith Moore, Treasurer

### WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BANTAM.

Organized January 1920.

This society is a branch of the Women's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Connecticut, and is organized for missionary work.

Mrs. J. C. Calloway, Pres. 1920- Mrs. C. B. Heath, Sec. and Treas.  
Mrs. George B. Morey, Vice- Pres.

### BOY'S CLUB, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BANTAM.

Organized 1920.

The purpose of this club is to interest the boys of the Parish in the higher life of the community and to provide athletic and social entertainment for them.

Hugh Trumbull, Pres. 1920- Jack Ravenscroft, Secretary  
William Ravenscroft, Vice-Pres. William Doyle, Treasurer





FLOYD L. VANDERPOEL, PRES., TRUMBULL-VANDERPOEL CO.







WILLIAM T. MARSH, PRESIDENT, LITCHFIELD WATER CO.



## THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LITCHFIELD

Organized September 1814, as the "Phoenix Branch Bank", reorganized December 22, 1864, as "The First National Bank of Litchfield".

The Bank has a capital of \$100,000, deposits exceed \$400,000, surplus \$30,000.

## The Phoenix Branch Bank.

## Presidents.

Col. Benjamin Tallmadge	1815-1826	Asa Bacon	1833-1846
Judge James Gould	1826-1833	Theron Beach	1846-1852
George C. Woodruff	1852-1864		

## The First National Bank.

## Presidents.

Edwin McNeill	1864-1875	George E. Jones	1893-1896
Henry R. Coit	1875-1887	Judge Charles B. Andrews	1896-1899
Henry W. Buel	1887-1893	George M. Woodruff	1899-
Charles H. Coit, Vice-president		Philip P. Hubbard, Cashier	

## Directors.

Weston G. Granniss	Lester R. Denegar
Frank H. Turkington	William T. Marsh
James P. Woodruff	

## THE LITCHFIELD SAVINGS SOCIETY.

Incorporated May 1850.

The Litchfield Savings Society is without Capital Stock; has deposits of \$2,000,000; surplus \$200,000; number of depositors 3,600.

## Presidents.

George C. Woodruff	1850-1885	George M. Woodruff	1885-
James P. Woodruff, Vice-president		Charles H. Coit, Sec. & Treas.	

## Directors.

Almon E. Fuller	John T. Hubbard
William T. Marsh	Charles N. Warner
W. J. Bissell	

## THE LITCHFIELD WATER COMPANY.

Organized 1889.

The Litchfield Water Company began its work by building a reservoir in the town of Goshen, on Fox brook, which could not properly be called a brook, as it practically dried up soon after a rainfall.

Water was introduced into the town in 1891, and people realized that they could now enjoy the luxury of a public water supply,

which had always been considered out of the question for Litchfield. It only required however, the experience of a few years to show that the supply was inadequate, and could not be depended upon.

In 1896, under the direction of Prof. Munroe, a pumping plant was installed in the valley below the reservoir, which was connected with several driven wells, sunk to a depth of about 90 feet, and these wells have provided an unfailing supply of pure water ever since, so that however dry the season or how near a water famine many of the surrounding towns were, Litchfield people, other than the stockholders, had no cause for worry.

Soon after the completion of the reservoir, the Company acquired practically all of the water-shed contributory, about 500 acres, and have allowed it to return to wild land, and what was at the time fine farm land, is now covered with quite a growth of young hardwood trees, well fenced to keep out cattle.

In 1914 a filter was installed to take out some sediment which washes into a reservoir in time of heavy rains, and while not entirely preventing trouble arising from that cause, it has been of very great help in keeping the water clear.

#### Presidents.

F. H. Wiggin	1889-1892	F. H. Wiggin	1894-1897
George M. Woodruff	1892-1894	William T. Marsh	1897-
James P. Woodruff, Vice-Pres.		Charles H. Coit, Secretary	
		William T. Marsh, Treasurer	

### THE LITCHFIELD ELECTRIC LIGHT & POWER COMPANY.

Incorporated 1897

In March 1901, the Company purchased at Bantam all the land of the Litchfield Land Improvement Co., north of the railroad track and all its water rights to the stream. They also purchased from Buel and Coit the old grist mill, formerly run by Samuel Bennett. This privilege was originally granted by vote of the town in 1804, "being rights of the Shepaug stream", which at that time was the name applied to the stream from the outlet of Bantam Lake. These privileges gave the Company controlling rights to water privileges, aggregating a head of 65 feet.

Some time during 1901, the power was generated at Bantam and took the place of the small plant in Grannis and Elmore's basement.

The present power house was built in July 1901. The business started with a capital of \$10,000 and an income of about \$75 per month. The Company, at present has a capital of \$100,000, surplus of \$25,000, a debt of \$65,000, and property of something over \$200,000. The annual business amounts to about \$50,000.

#### Presidents.

George S. Elmore	1898-1900	John L. Buel	1909-1916
Charles H. Coit	1901-1909	Walter Camp Jr.	1916-



HON. W. S. ROGERS, CHAIRMAN, BANTAM BATH BEARING CO.









MISS NELLIE M. SCOTT, PRESIDENT, BANTAM BALL BEARING CO.

Weston G. Granniss, Vice-Pres.  
Philip P. Hubbard, Secretary

Charles H. Coit, Treasurer  
Ellsworth F. Miner, Superintendent

### BANTAM BALL BEARING COMPANY.

Organized February, 1905, as the "Bantam Anti Friction Co."

Manufacturers of ball and roller bearings. Annual output \$750,000. Employs 130 hands. Plans are being matured for a large increase in the plant.

W. S. Rogers, Ch. Bd. of Directors      Helen Schoonmaker, Treasurer  
Nellie M. Scott, President              C. B. Heath, Secretary  
H. H. Edwards, Vice-Pres.

### BANTAM BALL BEARING MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The Bantam Ball Bearing Association is an association created for the benefit of the employees of the Bantam Ball Bearing Company. Assessments are made and benefits are paid to members of good standing on account of sickness creating inability to work.

Eugene Converse, Pres.      1919-      George Molitor, Sec. and Treas.

### THE CONNECTICUT ELECTRIC MANUFACTURING CO.

Bantam Branch organized 1919.

Product, metal and fibre flashlights. Approximate production per year \$700,000. Employs 74 hands.

A. H. Trumbull, President              H. M. Doyle, Secretary  
F. S. Trumbull, Vice-President      H. D. Hazen, Manager

### THE TRUMBULL-VANDERPOEL ELECTRIC MFG. CO.

BANTAM.

Organized 1912.

Manufacturers of safety switches, knife switches, switch boards, panel boards, weatherproof sockets and switches. Employs approximately 100 hands. Capital \$92,200, output about \$350,000 per year.

Presidents.

Charles F. Flynn              1912-1914      Floyd L. Vanderpoel              1914-  
Ralph K. Mason, V-Pres., Gen. Mgr.      Harold C. Richardson, Sec.-Treas

### LITCHFIELD LAND COMPANY.

Incorporated 1915.

The purpose of the Litchfield Land Company is to purchase, sell and otherwise deal in improved and unimproved real estate.

Henry R. Towne, Pres.      1915-      John H. Lancaster, Sec. and Treas.

### WARREN LAND COMPANY.

Incorporated 1913.

The purpose of the Warren Land Company is to purchase, hold and deal in forest lands and abandoned farms.

Charles T. Payne, Pres.      1913-      John H. Lancaster, Sec. and Treas.

## G. HOUSES and STORES IN THE BOROUGH OF LITCHFIELD.

In 1849, George C. Woodruff prepared, chiefly from information given by Dr. Abel Catlin, a List of most of the dwellings then standing in the village of Litchfield. This was enlarged by Seth P. Beers, by the addition of stores, offices, public buildings and some other dwellings, and was printed in 1862 with the Charter and By-laws of Litchfield. In 1919 the list was again added to and brought up to date by Miss Anna W. Richards; while the final revision, here printed including the houses on several streets not in the previous lists, has been made by Miss Ethel M. Smith.

## NORTH STREET

East side beginning at corner  
of East Street.

- 1—NAME: Roberts House  
BUILT: 1792-3—Charles Butler  
OWNED: 1920—Miss Edith Kings-  
bury
- 2—Ladies School  
1854-5—Sylvester Spencer  
1920—Lyman J. Booth
- 3—Lucretia Deming House  
1793—Julius Deming  
1920—Misses A. E. & E. D. Kings-  
bury
- 4—Bronson House  
1867 (?)—Edwin McNeill  
1920—J. H. Bronson
- 5—Bacon House  
1770 (about)—Reuben Smith  
1920—Charles H. Coit
- 6—Warner House  
1867—Prof. W. G. Peck  
1920—Mrs. Charles N. Warner
- 7—Wadsworth-Kilbourn House  
1811 (about)—Col. Tallmadge store  
removed  
1920—Julius Adenaw
- 8—McLaughlin House  
1830—Charles S. Webb  
1920—Mrs. E. T. McLaughlin
- 9—Andrew Adams House  
1765—Michael Dickinson  
1920—Alice T. Bulkeley

- 10—Riley House  
1828—Leonard Goodwin  
1920—Miss Alice T. Buckeley
- 11—Charles Perkins House  
1833—Julius Deming  
1920—Mrs. William W. Rockhill
- 12—Judge Church House  
1831—Rev. L. P. Hickok  
1920—Mabel Bishop
- 13—Trowbridge House  
1876—Thomas Trowbridge  
1920—Mrs. Blanche Bucklin
- 14—Lord House  
1785—Oliver Boardman  
1920—Amy R. Thurston
- 15—Charles Deming House  
1900—Charles Deming  
1920—Mrs. Charles Deming
- 16—Colgate House  
1880—James A. Robinson  
1920—William Colgate
- 17—Van Winkle House  
1900—M. D. & E. S. Van Winkle  
1920—Mary D. Van Winkle
- 18—Dr. Buel House  
1895—John L. Buel  
1920—John L. Buel, M. D.
- 19—Spring Hill Sanitarium  
1858-9—Dr. H. W. Buel  
1920—John L. Buel, M. D.



## NORTH STREET

West side beginning at corner  
of West Street.

## 20—County Jail

1811—Litchfield County

1920—Litchfield County

## 21—Drug Store

1784-5—Samuel Sheldon. Torn  
down: Litchfield Savings Society,  
same site, 1914.

1920—Litchfield Savings Society

## 22—Banking House

1815—Phoenix Bank

1920—First Nat'l Bank

## 23—Wessells House

1765—Laurence Wessells. Torn  
down. New House, 1877 Dr. Wil-  
liam Deming.

1920—Mrs. William Deming

## 24—Samuel Buel House

1821 (about)—Samuel Buel, M. D.  
Torn down. New House, 1892,  
Dr. Charles Belden.

1920—Mrs. W. H. K. Godfrey

## 25—A. Norton House

1762 (about)—Jas. Kilborn. Torn  
down.

## 26—Tallmadge House

1775—Thomas Sheldon

1920—Mrs. E. N. Vanderpoel

## 27—Beeman House

1849-50—Mrs. Brisbane

1920—Mrs. E. N. Vanderpoel

## 28—Judge Gould House

1760—Col. Elisha Sheldon

1920—J. P. Elton

## 29—Abel Catlin House

1800—John Allen

1920—Frederick Deming

## 30—Uriel Holmes House

1755 (about)—Mark Prindle. Burn-  
ed about 1840.

## 31—Chase House

1910—H. S. Chase

1920—Estate of H. S. Chase

## 32—Theron Beach House

1783—Daniel Sheldon, M. D.

1920—Est. E. B. VanWinkle

## 33—Pierce House

1803—Miss Pierce. Torn down.

## 34—Underwood House

1895—F. L. Underwood

1920—F. L. Underwood

## 35—Miss Pierce's Academy

1827—Academy Association

1920—H. P. Jones. Removed.

## 36—Pierce-Brace House

1750 (about)—Zebulon Bissell. Torn  
down.

## 37—Congregational Parsonage

1863—Congregational Society, same  
site as preceding.

1920—Congregational Society

## 38—William Deming House

1771-2—Lynde Lord, Sr.

1920—Mrs. Harrison Sanford

## 39—Beecher House

1774—Elijah Wadsworth. Remov-  
ed, part to Spring Hill.

## 40—Old Academy, Henry Jones

1827—Academy Association. Re-  
moved. Enlarged by H. R.  
Jones, 1878.

1920—Henry R. Jones

## 41—Fanning House

1830-1—Erastus A. Lord. Removed.

## 42—Bissell House

1888—F. A. P. Barnard

1920—Mrs. L. P. Bissell

## 43—Carrington House

1781—Eli Smith. Torn down.

## 44—Stephen Deming House

1778-9—Alexander Catlin

1920—M. W. & K. L. Buel

## TALLMADGE AVENUE

## North Side.

- 45—Bostwick House  
1900(about)—Mrs. Williams  
1920—Arthur Bostwick
- 46—Greycot  
1899—M. W. & K. L. Buel  
1920—M. W. & K. L. Buel

## TALLMADGE AVENUE

## South Side.

- 47—Bullard Cottage  
1910—Elizabeth Bullard  
1920—Mrs. John L. Buel

## PROSPECT STREET

## North Side.

- 48—A. W. Richards House  
1842—Daniel Baldwin  
1920—A. W. Richards
- 49—George Richards House  
1832-3—Removed from South St.,  
by Daniel Baldwin.  
1920—George Richards
- 50—Col. Tallmadge Farm House  
1790—(after)—Col. Benj. Tall-  
madge. Later used as part of  
boys' school kept by Mssrs. Berry  
and Eastman.  
1920—Mrs. FitzGerald

## PROSPECT STREET

## South Side.

- 51—Miss Quincy House  
1904—Mary P. Quincy  
1920—Mary P. Quincy
- 52—Shepherd Knapp House  
1894—Shepherd Knapp  
1920—George A. Vondermuhl
- 53—Congregational Parsonage  
1786—Reuben Webster  
1920—Est. of Archibald MacMartin
- 54—George Matthews House  
1822-3—Sylvester Spencer  
1920—Mrs. W. J. FitzGerald

- 55—FitzGerald House  
1867—W. J. FitzGerald  
1920—Mrs. W. J. FitzGerald

- 56—Wheeler House  
1880—J. W. Wheeler  
1920—E. M. Wheeler

- 57—Wheeler Cottage  
1906—E. M. Wheeler  
1920—E. M. Wheeler

## SOUTH STREET

West side beginning at corner  
of West Street.

- 58—Judd Block  
1888—Jesse L. Judd  
1920—Mrs. Ward
- 59—Beckwith Block  
1897—Mrs. J. G. Beckwith  
1920—Mrs. J. G. Beckwith
- 60—Beckwith House  
1819-20—Moses Seymour Jr.  
1920—Mrs. J. G. Beckwith
- 61—Origen S. Seymour House  
1807-8—Ozias Seymour  
1920—Morris W. Seymour
- 62—Major Seymour House  
1735—E. Marsh Sr., or Thomas  
Grant. Torn down, 1855, new  
house on same site by George  
C. Woodruff.  
1920—George M. Woodruff
- 63—George C. Woodruff House  
1829-30—Elihu Harrison. Enlarged  
by George C. Woodruff, 1860;  
James P. Woodruff, 1916.  
1920—James P. Woodruff
- 64—Samuel Seymour House  
1784-5—Samuel Seymour  
1920—Episcopal Rectory
- 65—Judge Reeve House  
1774—Judge Reeve  
1920—Lewis B. Woodruff
- 66—Morris Woodruff House  
1833-4—Lyman J. Smith  
1920—John T. Hubbard

- 67—"Parson" Jones Place  
 1800—Rev. Dan Huntington. Burned in 1862, rebuilt by the Misses Scott, enlarged by Chief Justice Andrews.  
 1920—Mrs. Grace M. Granniss
- 68—Henry Bissell House  
 1847—Henry Bissell. Enlarged by G. H. Hollister and John Lindley.  
 1920—John Lindley
- 69—Starr Cottage  
 1885—A. E. Fuller  
 1920—Miss Kate I. Thomas
- 69—Starr Cottage  
 1850-1—William F. Baldwin. Made from 2nd St. Michael's Church.  
 1920—Miss F. E. Frost
- 70—Oliver Wolcott Jr., House  
 1799—Elijah Wadsworth. Enlarged, 1817, by O. Wolcott Jr., and later by George B. Sanford.  
 1920—Mrs. Harry G. Day
- 71—Wallbridge House  
 1858—Wolcott Institute  
 1920—W. Beach Day
- 72—Henry R. Towne House  
 1915—Henry R. Towne  
 1920—Henry R. Towne

## SOUTH STREET

East side beginning at corner of East Street and continuing to South Bridge.

- 73—Oliver Goodwin House  
 1759-60 (about)—Ebenezer Marsh, Jr. Torn down, 1899.
- 74—Library Building  
 1901—John A. Vanderpoel  
 1920—Wolcott-Litchfield Circulating Library
- 75—Historical Society Wing  
 1906—E. N. Vanderpoel  
 1920—Historical Society

- 76—Law School  
 1784 (about)—Judge Reeve  
 Removed to West St., in 1846, and in 1911 to present site.  
 1920—Historical Society
- 77—Webb House  
 1819—Charles L. Webb  
 1920—Ruth E. McNeil
- 78—Telephone office and Woodruff Offices  
 1846—Origen S. Seymour  
 1920—George M. Woodruff
- 79—St. Michael's Church  
 1809-12. 1851-2 On site of that of 1812. Moved south for erection of stone church, 1919.  
 1920—Episcopal Society

Note: The lot on which St. Michael's Church stood was given by Samuel Marsh, Esq., in 1808. The *first* church building was one mile west of the village, erected in 1749. The *second* church building on South Street, 1809-12, as listed. The *third* church building on same site, 1851 (as listed).

The *fourth* church building, of stone, on same site and started in 1919 (as listed). The lot was added to by gifts and purchase east and south.

- 80—Bronson House  
 1785-6—James Stone. Torn down, 1919.
- 81—Bronson Store  
 1819-20—Phineas Miner's law office, enlarged by Silas N. Bronson, 1850.  
 1920—"The Sanctum"
- 82—Abraham C. Smith House  
 1780—Benjamin Hanks  
 1920—Esther T. Champlin
- 83—Huntington's Office  
 1831 (about)—Jabez W. Huntington  
 1920—Roman Catholic Parsonage

- 84—Roman Catholic Church  
1864—First R. C. Church; moved  
back in lot for building of new  
church in 1885-6, later torn down.
- 85—St. Anthony's Church  
1887-8—Roman Catholic Church  
1920—Roman Catholic Church
- 86—Edward W. Seymour House  
1864—Edward W. Seymour  
1920—Origen Seymour  
Edward W. Seymour 2nd
- 87—Morse House  
1832 (about)—Alanson Abbe, M. D.  
1920—Mrs. William H. Sanford
- 88—Fenn-Fuller House  
1867—Wm. C. Buel and Frank F.  
Cook, M. D.  
1920—W. S. Fenn & A. E. Fuller
- 89—Wolcott House  
1753-4 (about)—Oliver Wolcott Sr.  
Enlarged by Fred'k Wolcott.  
1920—Alice Wolcott
- 90—Belden House  
1773-4—Capt. Phineas Bradley, fin-  
ished by Ephraim Kirby and re-  
built by B. S. Clark.  
1920—Mrs. H. B. Mendenhall
- 91—Morse House  
1874—Holmes Morse  
1920—Betsy F. Morse
- 92—Wiggin House  
1871—Mrs. Wiggin  
1920—Mrs. A. M. Wiggin
- 93—Hamlin House  
1858-9—Henry B. Graves  
1920—E. B. Hamlin
- 94—Cunningham House  
1904—Seymour Cunningham  
1920—Seymour Cunningham
- 95—Ozias Lewis House  
1806—Ozias Lewis  
1920—Mrs. Antoinette Cahill
- 96—Cahill House  
1890—Mrs. Antoinette Cahill  
1920—Mrs. Antoinette Cahill
- 97—Parmalee House  
1886 (after)—Caroline Parmalee  
1920—Seymour Cunningham
- 98—Drury House  
1888—James Drury  
1920—James Drury
- 99—Coe House  
1892 (about)—Sarah Coe  
1920—Mrs. John Moran
- 100—Bissell House  
1830—George H. Palmer  
1920—W. G. Rosbach
- 101—George W. Thompson House  
1844-5—George Thompson  
1920—Miss Esther H. Thompson
- 102—The Misses Thompson House  
1868—George Thompson  
1920—Miss Esther H. Thompson
- 103—Stevens House  
1822—John Baldwin 2nd  
1920—Robert Stevens Jr.
- 104—Sedgwick House  
1825—A. P. Roberts  
1920—Ralph P. Smith
- 105—Stevens House  
1887—Robert Stevens  
1920—Joseph Bellerino
- 106—Erickson House  
1889—James Erickson  
1920—George Suhaj
- 107—Morris House  
1829—S. Sheldon. Right wing  
drawn from south and finished  
by Mrs. Wood.  
1920—Augustus Rolli
- 108—Palmer House  
1800 (about)—Asa Sanford. En-  
larged by Samuel Sheldon.  
1920—Est. Reynolds Crandall



## SOUTH STREET

West side from fork to South Bridge.

- 109—Gleason House  
1801-2 (about)—Deacon O. Lewis  
1920—Mrs. D. G. Ambler
- 110—Hempsted House  
1827-8—Hiram B. Woodcock  
1920—Richard Liggett
- 111—Homer House  
1803-4 (about)—Henry Blinn, finished by Augustine Buell, torn down and rebuilt by Thomas J. Harris, 1892.  
1920—Thomas J. Harris
- 112—Harrigan House  
1893-4 (about)—John Harrigan  
1920—Mrs. John Harrigan
- 113—Burns House  
1914—Barn remodeled and drawn from High Street.  
1920—Daniel Burns
- 114—Fisher House  
1825-6—A. P. Roberts, for shop.  
1920—George Beers
- 115—Samuel Buell House  
1825 (about)—Samuel Buell  
1920—John Scanlon

## WOLCOTT AVENUE

- 116—Trumbull House  
1896—William Trumbull  
1920—William Trumbull
- 117—MacLaren House  
1894—William MacLaren  
1920—W. S. Walcott
- 118—Hatheway House  
1899—Curtis R. Hatheway  
1920—Curtis R. Hatheway

## OLD ROAD or HIGH STREET

## East Side.

- 119—Heffernan House  
1822-23 (about)—Horace Gregory.  
Drawn there, torn down and rebuilt by John Shanks  
1920—John Shanks

- 120—Burns House  
1879—John Burns  
1920—John Burns
- 121—Peck House  
1894—Edwin B. Peck  
1920—George Beers
- 122—Peck House  
1894—Edwin B. Peck  
1920—Thomas Beers
- 123—Doyle House  
1888—James Richardson  
1920—Lawrence Doyle
- 124—Moran House  
1894—Edwin B. Peck  
1920—Daniel Moran
- 125—Kennedy House  
1879—Michael Kennedy  
1920—Daniel Kennedy
- 126—Delafontaine House  
1889—Charles Delafontaine  
1920—Otto Munn
- 127—Burns House  
1913—Daniel Burns  
1920—Daniel Burns
- 128—Phelps House  
1794—Abner Baldwin  
1920—Mrs. Aylmer
- 129—Fitzpatrick House  
1873—David DeForest  
1920—Mrs. Bridget Fitzpatrick
- 130—Ryan House  
1909—John Ryan  
1920—John Ryan
- 131—Powers House  
1761—William Marsh  
1920—Mrs. Katherine King

## HIGH STREET

## West Side.

- 132—Prescott House  
1850—William H. Thompson  
1920—Mrs. Symington
- 133—Prescott House  
1889—George Prescott  
1920—Mrs. William Brennan

- 134—Country Club
- 1853—George Prescott
- 1920—White Memorial Foundat'n

### WEST STREET

South side beginning at business blocks, at corner of South Street.

- 135—Phelps Block
  - 1888—Eugene L. Phelps
  - 1920—Eugene L. Phelps
- 136—Bishop Block
  - 1888—Bishop & Sedgwick
  - 1920—Est. Charles Bishop
- 137—Pratt Block
  - 1886—Seth Pratt & Thompson
  - 1920—George H. Hunt
- 138—Court House & Town Hall
  - 1797-8—County and Town. Burned in 1886; rebuilt in 1888, in wood, by town. Burned same year and rebuilt in 1889 by town, in stone.
  - 1920—County and Town
- 139—Sedgwick Block
  - 1889-90—Theodore Sedgwick and James T. Sedgwick, M. D.
  - 1920—J. T. Sedgwick, M. D.
- 140—Meafoy's Block
  - 1890 (about)—Eugene Meafoy
  - 1920—M. J. Moraghan
- 141—Sanford Block
  - 1890-1 (about)—Fred'k Sanford
  - 1920—M. V. Moraghan
- 142—Mrs. Sedgwick Block
  - 1890-1—Mrs. Lizzie Sedgwick
  - 1920—Mrs. T. P. Conroy
- 143—Beach Block
  - 1890—Dr. Beach
  - 1920—Mrs. T. P. Conroy
- 144—Granniss & Elmore Block
  - 1888—Granniss & Elmore
  - 1920—W. G. Granniss & Mrs. Nellie Elmore
- 145—Marcy Block
  - 1887—John Marcy
  - 1920—Robert A. Marcy, M. D.
- 146—Ives Block
  - 1905—George C. Ives
  - 1920—George Theophilos
- 147—T. F. Ryan office
  - 1898—Frederick Sanford, remodelled in 1912 by T. F. Ryan.
  - 1920—Thomas F. Ryan
- 148—Buell House
  - 1848—William Lord. Finished by Charles Buell in 1855.
  - 1920—Thomas F. Ryan
- 149—Ganung House
  - 1798—Joseph Adams
  - 1920—Mrs. C. M. Ganung
- 150—Methodist Church
  - 1885—Methodist Society
  - 1920—Methodist Society
- 151—Page House
  - 1799—Arad Way, and enlarged by Cheney.
  - 1920—George H. Hunt
- 152—Julia Deming House
  - 1872—Julius Deming
  - 1920—Julia A. Deming
- 153—Baldwin House
  - 1887—Mrs. Charles Baldwin
  - 1920—Mrs. Charles Baldwin
- 154—Mrs. Emma Pratt House
  - 1887—Seth Pratt
  - 1920—Mrs. Emma Pratt
- 155—Mrs. Margaret Pratt House
  - 1822-3—A. Benedict
  - 1920—Mrs. Margaret Pratt
- 156—Berkshire Hotel
  - 1874—Thomas Richards. Torn down, 1919.
- 157—Berry House
  - 1806-7 (about) —Stephen Parmenter
  - 1920—Miles Cummings and Mrs. Juckett



VIEW OF THE CENTER, ABOUT 1880









VIEW OF THE CENTER, 1920

- 158—Beach House  
1875 (about)—Samuel Beach  
1920—Edward Weir

- 159—Denegar House  
1893—L. R. Denegar  
1920—Edward M. Sepples

- 160—Burns House  
1875 (about)—Samuel Beach  
1920—William Burns

- 161—Perkins House  
1877—Edson L. Perkins  
1920—Mrs. M. S. Todd and Harry F. Lynch

- 162—Associated Farmers Building  
1881 (about)—William Johnson,  
remodeled by Jos. Slack, 1887.  
1920—Est. of Joseph Slack

### RUSSELL STREET

- 163—Slack House  
1887—Joseph Slack  
1920—Est. of Joseph Slack

- 164—Slack House  
1887—Joseph Slack  
1920—Est. of Joseph Slack

- 165—Slack House  
1887—Joseph Slack  
1920—Est. of Joseph Slack

### WEST STREET

North side beginning at North Street corner.

- 166—Fire Department  
1891—J. Deming Perkins  
1920—Borough

- 167—Fanny Morse House  
1780—Eli Smith  
1920—Miss Clara Kenney

- 168—Methodist Parsonage  
1884-5—Methodist Society  
1920—Methodist Society

- 169—Marsh House  
1820—Horace Gregory and A. Wadsworth  
1920—William T. Marsh

- 170—Trowbridge House  
1840 (about)—Henry Trowbridge  
1920—Edward Trowbridge

- 171—Playhouse  
1893—Casino  
1920—Litchfield Garden Club

- 172—Judd House  
1786—Amos Galpin  
1920—Mrs. A. T. VanLaer

- 173—Elmore House  
1901—George S. Elmore  
1920—Mrs. George S. Elmore

- 174—Allen House  
1883—Mrs. Barnes  
1920—W. B. Allen

- 175—Goodman House  
1841—William Rogers  
1920—Louis J. Goodman

- 176—Williams House  
1782—Abel Darling  
1920—Martin J. Moraghan

- 177—Sepples House  
Part of Robert Williams house.  
Drawn there from the east.  
Later remodeled.  
1920—William Sepples

- 178—Beach House  
1822-3—Sylvester Spencer  
1920—Mrs. Margaret Pratt

- 179—Parmalee House  
1823—Lynde Parmalee  
1920—Mrs. John Sepples

- 180—Saltonstall House  
1842—Garwood Sanford  
1920—Mrs. Harriet F. Biglow

- 181—Herbert House  
1883-4—William Herbert. Moved  
to present site and remodeled  
in 1914.  
1920—Mrs. William Herbert

- 182—Coe House  
1905-6—Stanley L. Coe  
1920—Stanley L. Coe

- 183—Donohue House  
 1870—Thomas Donohue  
 1920—Thomas Donohue
- 184—Mrs. Donohue House  
 1883—Mrs. Thomas Donohue  
 1920—William Bergin
- 185—Crutch House  
 1884 (about)—Malachi Tracy  
 1920—George R. Crutch
- 186—Barce House  
 1814-15 (about)—Simeon Taylor  
 1920—Mrs. Cora Beebe
- 187—Rogers House  
 1912—P. J. Rogers  
 1920—Patrick J. Rogers
- 188—Rogers House  
 1911—P. J. Rogers  
 1920—Patrick J. Rogers

## SPENCER STREET

## West Side.

- 189—Beach Shop  
 1832-3—T. L. Saltonstall. Re-  
 moved north on Spencer St.,  
 and remodeled.  
 1920—Mrs. Mark Polka
- 190—Bray House  
 (?)—Mrs. Michael Bray  
 1920—Mrs. William Tucker
- 191—Radich House  
 1919—The present house was  
 drawn there and remodeled.  
 1920—John Radich
- 192—Stone House  
 1828-9 (about)—Sylvester Spencer  
 1920—Timothy Higgins
- 193—Turkington House  
 1828-9 (about)—Sylvester Spencer  
 1920—William E. Turkington
- 194—Merriman House  
 1828 (about)—Sylvester Spencer  
 1920—Hugh Higgins

## SPENCER STREET

## East Side.

- 195—Da Ross House  
 1916-7—John Da Ross  
 1920—John Da Ross
- 196—Jonathan E. Fuller House  
 1852-3 (about)—William Rogers  
 1920—Antonio Da Ross
- 197—Vanderpoel House  
 1911—Piano shed drawn from  
 Daniels property and remodeled.  
 1920—Mrs. E. N. Vanderpoel
- 198—Vanderpoel House  
 1917—Mrs. E. N. Vanderpoel  
 1920—Mrs. E. N. Vanderpoel
- 199—Brown House  
 1819 (about)—Col. B. Tallmadge  
 1920—Joseph Mayer

## EAST STREET

Beginning at corner of North  
 Street.

- 200—Luke Lewis House  
 1782—John Collins  
 1920—Phelps House Corporation
- 201—Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe  
 1781—Dr. Reuben Smith. Moved  
 from North St., by Luke Lewis.  
 1920—Phelps House Corporation
- 202—Phelps Tavern  
 1787—David Buell  
 1920—E. L. Phelps
- 203—Wing of Beers House  
 1802—Roger Skinner office  
 1920—Mrs. W. W. & W. J. Bissell
- 204—S. P. Beers House  
 1787—Timothy Skinner  
 1920—Mrs. W. W. & W. J. Bissell
- 205—Congregational Church  
 1828—Congregational Society.  
 New church built, 1873.  
 1920—Congregational Society.
- 206—First Conference Room  
 1830 (about)—Congregational So-  
 ciety. Removed.



207—Reuben Merriman House  
1807—R. Webster and Reuben  
Merriman. Removed, 1917.

208—Webster House  
1784—Frisbie. Enlarged, 1816 by  
R. Webster and by Aaron  
Crutch in 1914.  
1920—Aaron Crutch

209—Perkins House  
1786—Litchfield County. Torn  
down. Center School built in  
1886-88.  
1920—Town

210—Sedgwick House  
1895—J. T. Sedgwick, M. D.  
1920—J. T. Sedgwick, M. D.

211—Sedgwick House  
1884(about)—Theo. Sedgwick  
1920—J. T. Sedgwick, M. D.

212—Karl House  
1911—Adolph C. Karl  
1920—Adolph C. Karl

213—Taylor House  
1875—Devoe & Hill  
1920—Patrick C. Burke

214—Karl Brothers House  
1875-6—Devoe & Hill  
1920—Karl Brothers

215—Bergin House  
1879—William Bergin  
1920—Vendelin Macejka

216—Devoe & Hill House  
1875-6—Devoe & Hill  
1920—John Broderick

217—Devoe & Hill House  
1875-6—Devoe & Hill  
1920—Mrs. John Finan

218—Noonan House  
1882—Theodore Sedgwick  
1920—Mark Burns

219—Moraghan House  
1877-8—Joseph Slack  
1920—Bernard Moraghan

220—Finan House  
1884—Joseph Slack  
1920—James Finan

221—Fitzpatrick House  
1885—Joseph Slack  
1920—Mrs. K. Fitzpatrick

222—Lyons House  
1883—Joseph Slack  
1920—Jacob Hexamer

223—Perry House  
1810—S. P. Beers. Removed by  
D. Baldwin, Sept. 1829. Part  
used when rebuilt by Bartley  
Lavin.  
1920—Mrs. Bartley Lavin

### EAST STREET

South side beginning at corner  
of South Street.

225—Hickox House  
1810—Augustus & Betsy Collins  
1920—Frances E. Hickox

226—Wheeler House  
1879—Wolcott Wheeler  
1920—F. North Clark

227—A. S. Lewis House  
1814—Charles G. Bennett  
1920—Est. Cornelia B. Hinsdale

228—Bissell House  
1817—John Bissell  
1920—Mary D. Colvocoresses

229—Buckley House  
1850—William Wheeler  
1920—Mrs. Thomas Buckley

230—Meagher House  
1896—Timothy Meagher  
1920—Timothy Meagher

231—Cahill House  
1906—Thomas Cahill  
1920—James Casey

232—Smith House  
1894(about)—Michael Grady  
1920—Stephen Smith

- 233—Kelley House  
1899—Aaron Crutch Jr.  
1920—John Kelley
- 234—Curtis House  
1901—C. Leslie Curtis  
1920—C. Leslie Curtis
- 235—Kelley House  
1869—Leonard Stone  
1920—Mrs. Bridget Kelley
- 236—Kinney House  
1872—John Kinney  
1920—Mrs. John Kinney
- 237—Lavin House  
1871—Bartley Lavin  
1920—John Gallagher
- 238—Birmingham House  
1869—Patrick Birmingham  
1920—Mario Simoncelli
- 239—Lavin House  
1871—John Lavin  
1920—Eugene L. Phelps
- 240—Eugene L. Phelps House  
1878—Eugene L. Phelps  
1920—Eugene L. Phelps
- 241—John Phelps 2nd House  
1834—Albert Homer. Removed  
and enlarged by S. P. Beers.  
1920—Eugene L. Phelps
- 242—Slack House  
1876—Joseph Slack  
1920—Est. Joseph Slack
- 243—Slack House  
1812—Joseph Slack  
1920—Aaron Crutch
- 244—Wells House  
1830—Tomlinson Wells  
1920—Est. Frank Wells
- MEADOW STREET**
- East side beginning at corner  
of West Street.
- 245—Masonic Hall  
1836—Methodist Society  
1920—St. Paul's Lodge, No. 11
- 246—Ganung House  
1850—William Lord  
1920—John Bernard Olsson
- 247—Jennee House  
1830-1 (about)—George Bolles  
1920—Frank B. Mason
- 248—Buell House  
1828-9 (about)—Curtis Woodruff  
1920—Eugene Meramble
- 249—Meafoy House  
1823-4 (about)—Lemuel O. Meafoy  
1920—Matthew Brennan
- 250—Kilbourne House  
1824 (about)—George Bolles  
1920—Morris W. Seymour
- 251—David C. Bulkley House  
1825—(about)—George Dewey  
1920—Edward Buckley
- 252—Edward Buckley House  
1902—Edward Buckley  
1920—Edward Buckley
- 253—Parmelee House  
1832-3—Henry Adams  
1920—Mrs. Nellie R. Elmore
- 254—Leonard House  
1890 (about)—Edwin B. Peck  
1920—Walter Cahill
- 255—Henry Kilbourn House  
1830-1 (about) — Samuel Waldon  
drew it there; finished by Dr.  
A. Abbe.  
1920—George M. Woodruff
- 256—Harris House  
1879—Barn drawn there by Mrs.  
E. Rogers.  
1920—Mrs. W. H. Harris
- 257—Crossman House  
1835—Ransom Potter  
1920—Martin Rogers
- 258—Rogers House  
1894—John Rogers  
1920—Mrs. John Rogers

- 259—Munger House  
 1831-2—Truman Munger  
 1920—William Erwin
- 260—Cunningham House  
 1911—Seymour Cunningham.  
 MacLaren barn drawn there  
 and remodeled.  
 1920—Seymour Cunningham
- 261—Peacocke House  
 1893—Mrs. John Peacocke  
 1920—Mrs. E. F. Miner

## MEADOW STREET

West side beginning at corner  
 of West Street.

- 262—Mason House  
 1803—Cato Freeman. Removed  
 from Prospect St. to Meadow  
 St. in 1873 and improved.  
 1920—Travis A. Ganung
- 263—Public School  
 1858-9—First School District re-  
 moved from West to Meadow  
 Street in 1873 and remodeled  
 for tenement house.  
 1920—Wolf Schuster
- 264—Newcomb House  
 1881—Cornelius Allen  
 1920—F. U. Newcomb
- 265—Hadsell House  
 1881 (about)—Mrs. Hadsell  
 1920—George C. Ives
- 266—Treadway House  
 1885—Julius Treadway  
 1920—Mrs. J. J. Treadway
- 267—Fuller House  
 1875—A. E. Fuller  
 1920—Eugene Banker
- 268—Trowbridge House  
 1879—George H. Trowbridge  
 1920—William S. Plumb
- 269—Buckley House  
 1882—D. C. Bulkley  
 1920—George H. Deacon
- 270—Buckley House  
 1884—D. C. Bulkley  
 1920—Robert A. Marcy, M. D.
- 271—Rogers House  
 1897—Patrick J. Rogers  
 1920—Mrs. John Rogers
- 272—Prescott House  
 1848—Reynolds C. Crandall  
 1920—Harry B. Morse
- 273—Gibbard House  
 1850—Leonard Stone  
 1920—Mrs. William Cone
- 274—Stone House  
 1855—Leonard Stone  
 1920—Wilbur B. Morse
- 275—Stone House  
 1868—Leonard Stone  
 1920—Mrs. Leonard Stone
- 276—Rev. Hiram Stone House  
 1903—Rev. Hiram Stone  
 1920—Mrs. Isabel Titus
- 277—Stone House  
 1880—Leonard Stone  
 1920—Mrs. Leonard Stone
- 278—Stone House  
 1864—Leonard Stone  
 1920—Mrs. Leonard Stone
- 279—Stone House  
 1876—Leonard Stone  
 1920—Mrs. Leonard Stone
- 280—Hoffman House  
 1874—Hoffman  
 1920—Armando Versari
- 281—Grosjean House  
 1874—Peck  
 1920—Mrs. Alexander Grosjean
- 282—Lancaster House  
 1915—John H. Lancaster  
 1920—John H. Lancaster
- 283—Barrett House  
 1886—Patrick Barrett  
 1920—Patrick Barrett

- 284—Rogers House  
 1881—Mrs. Ellen Rogers  
 1920—Mrs. Finan
- 285—Molloy House  
 1874—John Molloy  
 1920—Mrs. Swanson
- 286—Ryan House  
 1871 (about)—Charles Cotton  
 1920—Litchfield Land Co.

### TORRINGTON ROAD

#### West Side.

- 287—Colonial Hall  
 1828—1st Congregational Church.  
 Moved to present site when new church was built.  
 1920—George Barber
- 288—Baldwin House  
 1821-2—Daniel Baldwin  
 1920—George Barber
- 289—Taylor House  
 1784—Daniel Starr. Removed from East Street.  
 1920—Mrs. George Hawley
- 290—Cone House  
 1884—Samuel Cone  
 1920—Mrs. Amelia Ensign
- 291—Monroe House  
 1895 (about)—This house drawn to present site by Prof. Monroe. Formerly Mrs. Gleason's house.  
 1920—Prof. Henry S. Munroe
- 292—Bulkeley Bungalow  
 1911-2 (about)—Miss A. Bulkeley  
 1920—Miss Alice Bulkeley
- 293—Perkins House  
 No record of the building of this house. Probably by J. Deming Perkins.  
 1920—Lawrence Carbury
- 294—Quigley House  
 1848—G. F. Davis  
 1920—Miss M. VanWinkle

### TORRINGTON ROAD

#### East Side.

- 295—Brennan House  
 1916—Mrs. Michael Brennan  
 1920—L. R. Denegar
- 296—Merriman House  
 1807—R. Webster and Reuben Merriman, 1839. Moved to present site and improved, 1917.  
 1920—Matthew Brennan
- 297—Hausmann House  
 1916-7—Albert Hausmann  
 1920—Albert Hausmann
- 298—Sedgwick House  
 1884 (about)—Theodore Sedgwick  
 1920—J. T. Sedgwick, M. D.
- 299—Cahill House  
 1881-2—Mrs. Eliza Cahill  
 1920—Frank Fabbri
- 300—Seth P. Beers House  
 1825—Seth P. Beers. Drawn to present site in 1869.  
 1920—Mrs. James Madden
- 301—Doyle House  
 1913—Nicholas Doyle  
 1920—Nicholas Doyle
- 302—Watts House  
 1847—James Trowbridge  
 1920—Mrs. Patrick Lavin

### WOODRUFF STREET

- 303—Bray House  
 1853 (after)—Michael Bray. Removed to present site, 1914.  
 1920—Litchfield Land Co.
- 304—Crover House  
 1853 (after)—Mrs. Bernasconi  
 1920—Litchfield Land Co.
- 305—Downey House  
 1853 (after)—Henry Friday  
 1920—Litchfield Land Co.



## 306—Harrigan House

1797—James F. Wolcott's office  
on South St. removed to present site, 1914.

1920—Litchfield Land Co.

## 307—Higgins House

1879—George Prescott

1920—Litchfield Land Co.

## 308—Dwyer House

1853 (after)—John Dwyer

1920—Litchfield Land Co.

Note: These houses were all removed from the lower section of Meadow Street. The lower Meadow highway was opened February 7th, 1853.

## H. PATENT OF THE TOWN OF LITCHFIELD.

"The Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New England, to all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

KNOW YE, THAT the said Governor and Company, by virtue of the power granted unto them by our late sovereign, King Charles the Second, of blessed memory, in and by His Majesty's Patent, under the great seal of England, dated the twenty-third day of April, in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign, and in pursuance thereof and in General Court assembled, according to charter, did, by their act, made May fourteenth, Anno Domini, 1719, upon the humble petition of Lieut. John Marsh, of Hartford, within the said Colony, and Dea. John Buell, of Lebanon, grant unto the said John Marsh and John Buell, and partners, settlers, being in the whole fifty-seven in number, liberty to settle a town westward of Farmington, in the county of Hartford, at a place called Bantam, which town was to be in length east and west, eight miles, three quarters, and twenty-eight rods, and in breadth, seven miles and an half—to be bounded east on Mattatuck river, west part on Shipaug river and part on the wilderness, north by the wilderness and south by Waterbury bounds and a west line from Waterbury corner to the said Shipaug river. And Ordered, that the said town should be called by the name of Litchfield, as more fully appears by the said act. The said Governor and Company, by virtue of the aforesaid power, and by their special act bearing even date with these presents, for divers good causes and considerations them hereunto moving, have given, granted and by these presents, for themselves, their heirs and successors, do fully, clearly and absolutely give, grant, ratify and confirm, unto the said John Marsh and John Buell, and the rest of the said partners, settlers of said tract of land (in their actual full and peaceable possession and seizin being) and to their heirs and assigns, and such as shall legally succeed and represent them, forever, (in such proportions as they, the said partners and settlers, or any of them, respectively, have right in and are lawfully possessed of the same,) all the said tract of land now called and known by the name of Litchfield, in the county of Hartford aforesaid, be the same more or less, butted and bounded as followeth, viz: Beginning at the north east corner, at a tree with stones about it, standing in the crotch of Mattatuck river aforesaid, and running southerly by the side of said river until it meets with Waterbury bounds, where is a well known white oak tree standing about fifteen rods west of said Mattatuck river, anciently marked with IS: IN: From thence running west twenty three degrees thirty minutes south, to two white oak trees growing out of one root, with stones about them, and west one mile and a half to Waterbury north west corner bound mark; and from thence west five degrees thirty minutes north to Shipaug river, where is a tree and stones about it butting upon Waterbury township; then beginning at the first mentioned tree by Mattatuck river and running westward into the wilderness, to an oak tree marked and stones laid around it; then south to a crotch in the Shipaug river; and thence by the westernmost branch of the

Shippaug river to Woodbury bounds. And also all and singular, the lands, trees, woods, underwoods, woodgrounds, uplands, arable lands, meadows, moors, marshes, pastures, ponds, waters, rivers, brooks, fishings, fowlings, huntings, mines, minerals, quarries, and precious stones, upon and within the said land. And all other rights, members, hereditaments, easements and commodities whatsoever, to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining, so butted and bounded as is herein before particularly expressed or mentioned, and the reversion or reversions, remainder or remainders, rights, royalties, privileges, powers and jurisdictions whatsoever, of and in all and singular the said tract of land and premises hereby granted, and of and in any and every part and parcel thereof. And the rents, services and profits to the same incident, belonging or appertaining—*To Have and To Hold* all the said tract of land, and all and singular other the premises hereby given or granted, or mentioned, or intended to be granted, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereof, unto the said John Marsh and John Buell, and the rest of the partners, settlers of the same, their heirs and assigns, to their only proper use, benefit and behoof, forever; and to and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever. And the said Governor and Company, for themselves and their successors, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant, unto the said John Marsh and John Buell, and the rest of the partners, settlers of the tract of land herein before granted, their heirs and assigns, that the said tract of land so butted and bounded as aforesaid, shall from time to time and at all times forever hereafter, be deemed, reputed, denominated, and be an entire town of itself and shall be called and known by the name of LITCHFIELD, in the county of Hartford, and that the aforesaid partners, settlers and inhabitants thereof, shall and lawfully may from time to time and at all times, forever hereafter have, use, exercise and enjoy all such rights, powers, privileges, immunities and franchises, in and among themselves, as are given, granted, allowed, used, exercised and enjoyed, to, by, and amongst the proper inhabitants of other towns in this Colony, according to common approved custom and observance; and that the said tract of land and premises hereby granted as aforesaid, and appurtenances, shall remain, continue and be unto the said John Marsh and John Buell, and the rest of the partners, settlers, their heirs and assigns, in proportion aforesaid forever, a good, peaceable, pure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple, to be holden of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, as of His Majesty's Manor of East Greenwich in the county of Kent, in the Kingdom of England, in free and common soccage, and not in capite, nor by Knight's service—Yielding therefor, and paying unto our Sovereign Lord, King George, his heirs and successors forever, one fifth part of all ore of gold and silver which, from time to time and at all times forever hereafter, shall be there gotten, had or obtained, in lieu of all services, duties and demands whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said Governor and Company have caused the Seal of the said Colony to be hereunto affixed.

*Dated at Hartford, May the 19th day, Anno regni regis Decimo Georgii*

*Mag'ae Britt'ae, Fran'ae, Hybern'ae, Annoque Domini, One Thousand  
Seven Hundred and Twenty-Four, 1724.*

G. SALTONSTALL, Governor.

By order of the Governor and  
Company in General Court  
assembled.  
Hez. Wyllis, Secretary."

(Seal.)

**FINIS.**





COUNTRY ROAD IN WINTER, LITCHFIELD























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